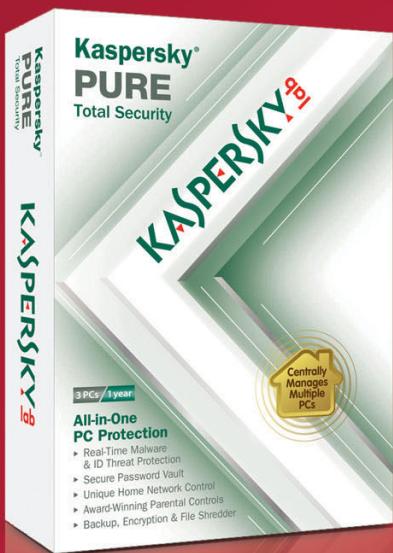


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The Right HDTV Screen Technology

Three Technologies, One Choice



HDTV is practically synonymous with flat panel TV these days. Flat screens are by far the most popular sets on the market, and for good reason. They're thin, light, and easy to move. They also offer better picture quality than standard TVs, and can lower your utility bill.

LED

- LED is similar to LCD, but instead of using fluorescent backlights to illuminate the picture, it uses lots of tiny light-emitting diodes.
- Because these LEDs can dim or turn off where the picture is dark, a process called local dimming, the screen does a much better job of rendering black scenes.
- LED combines most of the advantages of LCD with plasma's superior contrast ratios.
- LED is a relatively new, more advanced technology, so it costs a bit more than LCD and plasma.
- They heat up a green LED, because they consume less power and generate less heat.

LCD

- LCD offers by far the widest selection of screen sizes and models.
- The picture is quite bright, so it often has better clarity in a well-lit room.
- LCD TVs don't use glass screens, so there's no problem with reflections or glare.
- One of the best things about LCDs is the wide range of black levels to white whites, because the fluorescent backlights is always on, LCDs can't render pure blacks.

Plasma

- Plasma is widely regarded as having a picture that beat a tube TV, with unsurpassed contrast and color fidelity.
- It has the widest viewing angle, so you have several people watching from different locations in the room, a plasma screen is the best choice.
- Plasma TVs are much heavier than same-sized LCD sets, demanding more care and stability for wall-mounting.
- They consume more power, may eat a lot at high altitudes, and the glass screen can catch a fire from light sources.

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On Our Cover: Featured on this month's cover is Kaspersky Pure Total Security (\$89.95 for three licenses; www.kaspersky.com) and the Frigidaire Gallery FGHB2869 Stainless Steel Refrigerator (\$2,499; www.frigidaire.com).



Get Details On The Latest Product Arrivals

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AMD Radeon HD 6000M GPUs

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Canon

Canon PIXMA MX882 Wireless Inkjet Office All-In-One Printer

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Kaspersky

Kaspersky Pure Total Security

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Microsoft

Microsoft Touch Mouse

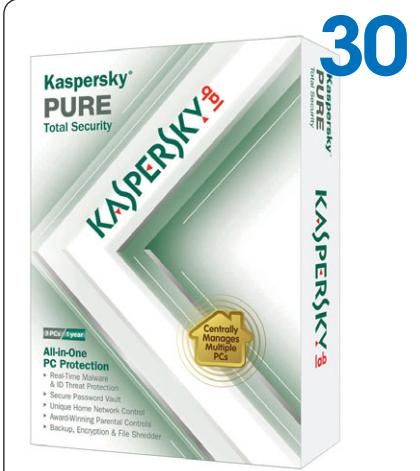
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The Connected Home

Discover New Possibilities With Today's Technology

TODAY A WIDE VARIETY of digital devices and technologies work together to make all kinds of information available whenever and wherever you need it. Stream movies to your home theater; download photos from a relative overseas to a photo frame in your living room; or upload music from your MP3 player to your car. Whatever you want to do, there's a product out there to help you do it. Use this digital home blueprint to identify the types of things you want to do, and then go to the appropriate pages to learn about related products and technologies.

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For many of us, a cell phone is a daily companion, and it's a device that's constantly evolving. To learn about the latest in phone tech, features, and accessories, take a look at our Portable Devices section.



57 Essential Things To Know
MP3 Player Direct Connect Kits



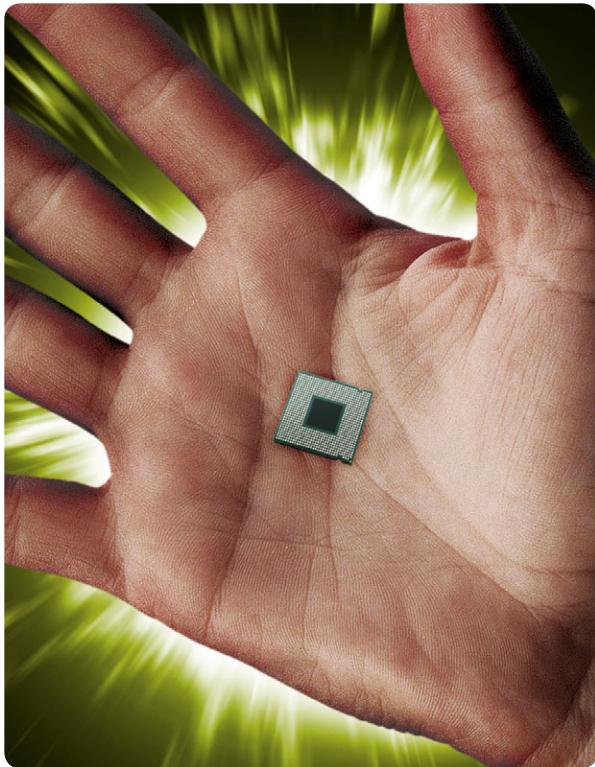
ce news

COMPILED BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

Help Desk Trends

According to a new report, more people are calling help desks for assistance than ever before. In 2010, 67% of all help desk operations experienced increases in incident volumes. Outsourcing is still common in the support industry, with hardware support and repair topping the list of most outsourced functions. The organizations that don't outsource cite a desire to maintain service quality and customer acceptance as their primary motivation. The good news for 2011 is that the percent of support centers that foresee layoffs, and hiring and salary freezes, is down. Even better, 34% of support organizations are planning to hire more personnel.

Source: HDI



The 1,000-Core Processor

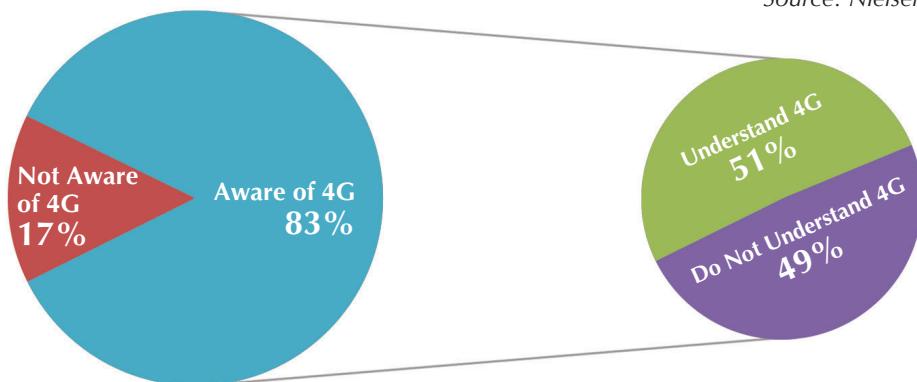
Researchers at the University of Glasgow in Scotland have managed to cram 1,000 cores on a single processor. To test their FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array) processor, the researchers ran an MPEG video conversion algorithm, similar to that used on videos uploaded to YouTube, and realized a 5Gbps data rate, which is approximately 20 times faster than a PC that uses the fastest commercially available processor. Although the custom processor delivers extreme performance for some tasks and low energy consumption, software remains the bottleneck for multicore processors.

marketplace

4G Awareness vs. 4G Understanding

As wireless carriers battle over which has the better 4G network speeds and coverage, many wireless subscribers have caught on that 4G is the next big thing. The question remains, however, do they understand what 4G is? The Nielsen Company found that only 17% of wireless consumers had not heard of 4G, but of the remaining 83% who were aware of 4G, roughly half of them understood what 4G will bring to their wireless life, while the other half had no idea.

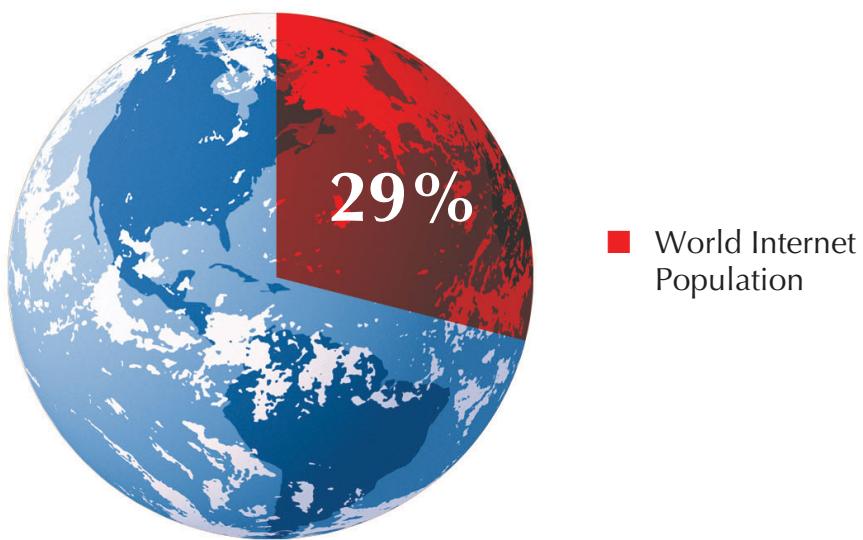
Source: Nielsen



Global Internet Population

According to a survey from the tech blog Royal Pingdom, nearly 29% of the Earth's 6.8 billion human inhabitants, or 1.97 billion, now have access to the Internet. That's a 14% increase over last year. Other impressive figures from the survey: 107 trillion emails were sent on the Internet in 2010; we sent an average of 294 billion emails per day in 2010; there are 255 million Web sites as of December 2010, and 21.4 million of them were added over the course of the year; there were 152 million blogs, 600 million Facebook users, and 25 billion tweets sent; 2 billion videos were watched per day on YouTube; and 5 billion photos were stored on Flickr.

Source: Royal Pingdom



tidbits

Social media firms are starting to pique investors' interests: Facebook has seen its value skyrocket 56% to \$41.2 billion as of Dec. 1, 2010. The online coupon vendor Groupon has experienced a four-fold increase in its valuation to \$4.8 billion, and Twitter's value has doubled to \$3.71 billion.

Source: NyppeX

McAfee recently released its 2011 "Threat Predictions" report, which highlights the top threats for the coming year, and Google's Android platform, Google TV, Apple's iPhone platform and Mac OS X, and the geolocation service Foursquare are top targets for cybercriminals.

Source: McAfee



2011 will be a banner year for tablets, with new hardware expected from Apple, Research In Motion, and others, as well as new software from Google, which is designed to make the firm's Android OS work better on larger screens. Forrester predicts that 24.1 million tablets will sell in 2011 and 35.1 million in 2012.

Source: Forrester

The United States just nabbed the top spot among spam-producing countries, according to a new survey. Almost 1 in 5 (18.83%) of all spam messages originates in the United States, and the second biggest spam-producing country, India, is responsible for less than half as much (6.88%).

Source: Sophos



HOW TO BUY

An HDTV With Web Access

Take Your Home Theater Online



HDTVs just keep adding more useful features. Now there are not only TVs that can go online but also different categories of Web-enabled sets based on what they can do on the Internet. Let's talk about what you'll need to access content as well as the differences between an Internet-connectable TV and a smart TV to make your shopping easier.

Internet-Connectable TV

- This type of TV lets you instantly access a limited number of online content sources via apps.
- Select an icon or menu item on-screen to tap into streaming audio (such as Pandora), video (such as Netflix, CinemaNow, or Hulu Plus), social networking (such as Twitter), and more.
- Other apps such as Yahoo! TV Widgets supply on-screen weather updates, sports scores, movie rentals (such as Amazon Video On Demand), and more.

... easily access a limited number of online content sources ...

Smart TV

- This HDTV variant has significant processing power and gives you access to Internet, television, and personal content that can be seamlessly searched.
- Comes with an intuitive remote, usually with QWERTY input, to simplify typing search terms.
- Provides a Web browser so you can surf the Internet.
- Also lets you personalize and use interactive apps for social networking, online services, and more.

Take Your TV Online

- Use a wireless or wired connection to link to your home network router.
- An HDTV marked "Wi-Fi Built In" is ready to connect wirelessly; a "Wi-Fi Ready" set needs an adapter that may be sold separately.
- Practically speaking, a wireless connection requires an 802.11n setup with good performance.

... 20Mbps is better when multiple devices are using the bandwidth.

- A wired connection through an Ethernet cable avoids Wi-Fi's potential for slowdowns due to interference.
- You can get wired reliability without stringing Ethernet cable to your router by using a powerline adapter kit.
- For streaming HD video, your broadband connection should run at a minimum of 5 to 10Mbps; 20Mbps is better when multiple devices are using the bandwidth.

BY MARTY SEMS

Do You Really Have HD?

Our Guide To HD Sources



Even if you're watching a movie or TV show on an HDTV, that doesn't mean it's being displayed in HD quality because not all content is delivered in HD. Here, we'll explain what sources are available and what you'll need for HD programming.

Cable & Satellite

- Cable and satellite providers offer packages or service tiers, and to receive HD, you'll need to sign up for one that specifically lists HD channels. Even premium, digital, movie, or on-demand packages may not offer HD programming unless you add it.
- To receive an HD signal, the cable or satellite provider will generally lease an HD set-top box or HD satellite receiver to you that connects to your HDTV and/or A/V receiver with an HDMI cable.

Fiber Optic

- Fiber optic TV services are only available in select areas and are delivered using a faster connection than cable or satellite. The result is a service that provides HD signals with less audio and video compression, letting you enjoy improved sound and image detail over cable or satellite.
- Because fiber optic cables can also carry Internet signals, you may be able to access Web features, such as social networks and streaming video, on your HDTV.

Blu-ray Discs

- BD (Blu-ray Disc) movies are encoded in HD quality, while DVDs are limited to standard-definition quality.
- To watch a BD movie or TV show on your HDTV, you'll need a BD player.

Over The Air

- Nearly all local TV stations broadcast some programs in HD using an over-the-air signal that you can receive using an antenna.
- With a digital over-the-air signal, the video may drop out if your antenna's signal strength isn't strong enough. To fix the issue, you may need to invest in an HDTV antenna.

Cables

- Your devices will typically feature both HDMI and Component outputs to connect a set-top box, HD satellite receiver, or BD player to your other home-theater devices.
- The HDMI connection is superior to Component, because it provides an uncompressed, high-quality HD signal to your devices whereas Component is an analog format that can degrade the HD signal.



Schlage LiNK™

Simple & Powerful Home Control

Did you get a call at work from your middle-schooler who just arrived home from school sans house key? Going away on vacation and want to control your lights? Need to let the plumber in while you're across town in a meeting? Want to know who's coming and going through your front door? No problem. The Schlage LiNK Starter Kit (\$299; www.link.schlage.com; www.bestbuy.com/schlagelink) has you covered.

Home management and control has never been easier. With the Schlage LiNK Starter Kit, you get an easy-to-install home management solution that gives you advanced control over your door locks and lighting whether you're on your computer at work or the coffee shop, on your smartphone on the road, or standing right there on your own doorstep.



Mobile Platforms Supported



The Schlage LiNK Starter Kit

The Schlage LiNK Starter Kit includes a wireless keypad deadbolt or wireless keypad lever; a Schlage bridge that securely connects the Schlage LiNK system to the Internet; and a Schlage Light Module to remotely control a lamp in your home. To get started, all you need is a laptop or desktop computer, high-speed Internet access, a router, and a monthly Schlage LiNK subscription (the first two months are free; \$8.99 per month or \$99 per year thereafter).

How It Works

The Schlage LiNK Starter Kit harnesses the power of the Internet to let users control and monitor their homes. Here's how it works:

- The Schlage bridge connects to your online Schlage account via your home network
- The bridge also creates a wireless, low-power mesh network in your home based on the Z-Wave network standard
- All your Z-Wave-enabled products, including the components of your Schlage Starter Kit and any GE Z-Wave products, can connect to the bridge—up to 232 different devices on a single network

- You can control everything in your home with a computer or Web-enabled cell phone via the online Schlage interface
- The Schlage locks are fully battery powered so even if your Internet service goes down temporarily or there is a power outage, all codes will always work, so you'll never be locked out of your house
- Receive text message or email notifications when someone enters a door code (you can program up to 19 separate codes for different individuals)

Locks Are Just The Beginning

The ability to control your home's locks from anywhere in the world is hardly the extent of the system's capabilities.

- The Light Module (included in the Schlage LiNK Starter Kit) lets you control a lamp online with a computer or cell phone. It also acts as an extender to increase the range of your Schlage LiNK system's Z-Wave wireless signal.
- You can add a Schlage Wireless Network Camera (\$179), which lets you remotely monitor your home via live online video.
- The Trane Remote Energy Management Thermostat (\$149) lets you remotely control temperature and energy use.
- The Trane Thermostat Starter Kit (\$229) includes the Trane Remote Energy Management Thermostat, the Schlage LiNK bridge, and an appliance module.



Light Module



Schlage Wireless Network Camera



Trane Remote Energy Management Thermostat



The Schlage LiNK system offers a host of capabilities for home management and control. Here's a breakdown of what you can accomplish remotely by installing the available kits and add-ons in your home.

Starter Kits	MSRP	What You Can Do
Schlage LiNK Starter Kit	\$299	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No need to keep tabs on a house key thanks to keyless entry • Create temporary entry codes for anyone who needs to get inside • Receive notifications when someone enters your home • Turn a lamp on or off when you return or leave home • Set a schedule for your light when you're on vacation
Trane Thermostat Starter Kit	\$229	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control your home's temperature from a computer or cell phone • Reduce energy consumption up to 15% with the energy savings schedule • Remotely control a lamp in your home
Schlage LiNK System Add-Ons		
Schlage Wireless Network Camera	\$179	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify who comes to your doorstep via live online video
Trane Remote Energy Management Thermostat	\$149	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remotely adjust your home's thermostat for energy savings • Receive alerts if your heating or cooling system needs maintenance or if the temperature reaches an unwanted setpoint

Yes, You Need To Calibrate

Get Optimal HDTV Video Results

Why A Professional Calibration?

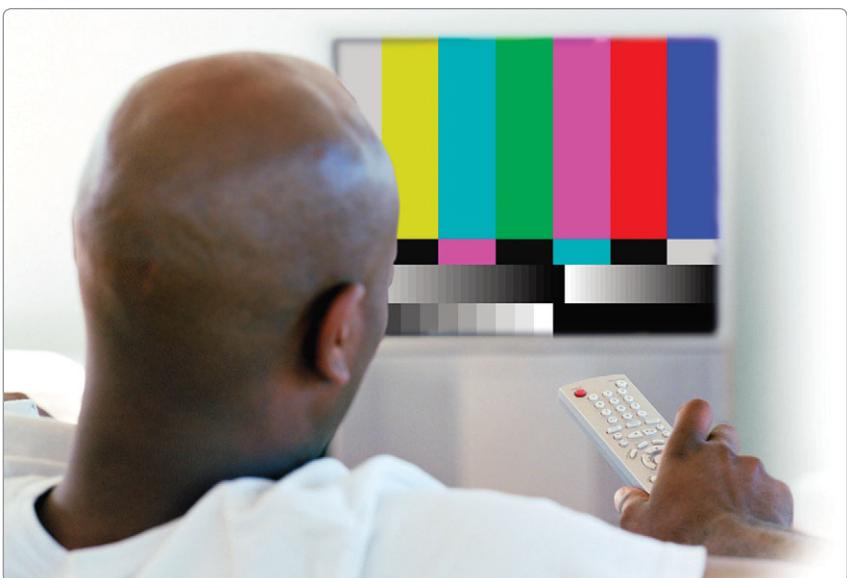
- Calibration specialists are ISF (Imaging Science Foundation)-certified, which means they are trained to use highly specialized and expensive equipment to calibrate HDTVs correctly.
- A calibration DVD might be a tempting alternative, but it won't let you adjust all of your HDTV's settings. An ISF-certified professional can access advanced service menus to calibrate your TV correctly. These settings aren't meant to be experimented with, so if you poke around and gain access to your TV's service menu, it's best to leave it alone. Many people have rendered their TVs useless because they didn't heed this warning.

Your Video May Not Be All That It Seems

- Most TVs are shipped with a set standard video mode meant for an electronics store display—this means that the TV's settings are adjusted to show the best picture in a bright, fluorescent-lit environment. Because it's unlikely your lighting at home matches the store's surroundings, you should have your TV professionally calibrated by a specialist to accommodate your home's unique lighting environment.
- An HDTV's viewing angle and your home-theater setup also affect how your HDTV should be calibrated. An ISF-certified professional takes these factors into account when making adjustments.
- Although you can expect to budget 10 to 15% of the purchase price of your television for a professional calibration, consider it an entertainment investment that will pay dividends for years to come.

What You Can Expect

- A calibration session includes two inputs on the set, so no matter which you use, you will get the best image clarity and sharpness your HDTV can provide.
- A professional will use color analyzer equipment to objectively tune color saturation and temperature as precisely as possible, letting you see video exactly the same way it looked when it was created.
- Your HDTV's contrast will be set up to provide greater video detail as well as the darkest blacks and brightest whites.



ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

HDTV Refresh Rates

Q If movies are filmed at 24Hz, why are HDTVs designed to run at 60Hz by default?

A Video shot for television is most often filmed at 30fps or 60fps, so HDTVs are designed to have refresh rates that are evenly divisible by 30 and 60. 120Hz and 240Hz refresh rates are often used on LCDs because they are evenly divisible by 30, 60, and 24, accommodating both film and television content.

Q What is refresh rate?

A It's the number of times per second (measured in Hertz, or Hz) the image on the screen updates itself. Higher refresh rates translate to on-screen motion that keeps fine details intact and prevents the appearance of jerky, stuttering video. For example, video displayed at 120Hz appears twice as smooth to the eye as video displayed at 60Hz.

Q Why are refresh rates often advertised with LCD sets but not plasma sets?

A LCDs and plasmas produce on-screen images using different methods; they also handle refresh rates differently. LCDs generally display video at 60Hz, 120Hz, or 240Hz. Plasma sets divide the picture into several subfields that independently refresh at 48Hz or 60Hz, displaying smooth motion without the need for high refresh rates.

Q How am I supposed to compare the refresh rates of different sets at the store? What in particular should I be looking for?

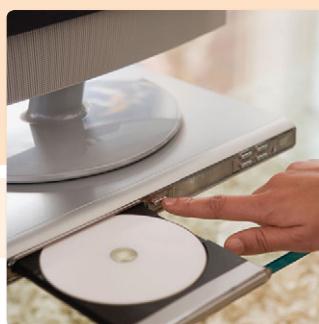
A Try watching both movies and high-definition TV channels (sports are ideal). When the camera pans up and down or left and right, a set that handles refresh rates will result in video that looks smooth and uninterrupted. When LCD sets are using high refresh rates (such as 120Hz or 240Hz), look at the edges of objects that are moving on-screen. If the edges remain sharp, the HDTV is good at interpolating extra frames to create the illusion of continuous motion.

Q How does the TV play something filmed at 24Hz at 120Hz or faster without speeding it up?

A The TV uses a process called interpolation to create additional frames of video based on the existing frames of video. These are inserted between the actual frames so the movie doesn't speed up, but has smoother motion.

Q Why doesn't a movie displayed on an HDTV look like what I'm used to seeing at the movie theater?

A Most movies are filmed at 24fps, so you're used to seeing them played back at 24Hz. When an HDTV converts the video to much higher refresh rates, such as 120Hz or 240Hz, the HDTV renders video with smoother movement than what you see at the theater.



HDTVs

Screen Technology Differences



LCD (liquid-crystal display)

LCDs can use one of two backlight technologies. CCFLs (cold cathode fluorescent lamps) are the most common, but LEDs are the latest backlight technology to hit the LCD scene. (See the "LED" section for more info on LED TVs.)

Pros

- The thin profiles and light weight of LCDs make them easy to mount on a wall.
- Power demands are a bit lower than comparably sized plasma displays and considerably lower than CRT televisions.

Cons

- Fast-moving images may suffer from a slight trailer effect, but with improved

LCD technology, the effect is barely perceptible.

- When pixels stick on or off, they show up as either a pinpoint of bright light or black, which can be distracting on-screen.
- From certain viewing angles, LCDs will lose video contrast and color.
- LCDs with CCFL backlighting suffer from leaking light, and unlike LEDs, they can't dim certain areas on-screen. This may result in blacks and whites that appear to be more gray in color.

Best For

- Streaming PC content
- Bright, sunny rooms

LED (light-emitting diode)

LED TVs are actually a type of LCD TV. These sets use one of two LED backlight technologies:

- Full-array lighting places LEDs behind the screen in a grid pattern, letting the TV dim certain LEDs for the best contrast ratios available.
- Edge-lit sets have LEDs placed around the frame of the TV, and light is directed toward the center of the screen. Edge-lit models cost less than full-array sets and are a lot thinner.

Pros

- By using LEDs, these sets use a lot less electricity than other HDTVs, and

they don't contain harmful mercury.

- Overall, LED TVs are one-third thinner than other LCD TVs and have longer life spans.
- Plasmas are well-known for their deep blacks, crisp whites, and fast response times, but LED TVs closely match in performance.

Cons

- These sets are costly because they feature a relatively new technology.
- Blooming, or a halo effect, may encircle bright images that are on dark backgrounds.

Best For

- Eco-conscious viewers
- Fast-paced gaming

Plasma

Pros

- A plasma TV's phosphors light up evenly across the screen to create images, which are consistently bright and clear with vibrant colors.
- The contrast ratio is high, so you'll see some of the darkest blacks and brightest whites.

- The design and technology of plasma TVs lend themselves to large screen sizes—typically 42 inches or greater.
- Rapid pixel response means no blurry motion.
- Wide viewing angles give you the same high-quality images on-screen no matter where in the room you happen to be sitting.

Cons

- Some plasmas are susceptible to image burn-in if not cared for properly.
- Low air pressure and high altitudes may cause plasmas to buzz.
- Some plasmas have highly reflective glass, which isn't ideal in sunny settings.

Best For

- Large groups who watch TV together
- Movies or sports with nonstop action

RPTV (rear-projection TV)

Pros

- RPTVs are surprisingly lightweight for their sizes.
- You'll find exceptional picture quality on very big screens (typically 60 inches and larger).

- As screens get bigger, RPTVs tend to be more cost-effective than an LCD, LED, or plasma TV.

Cons

- With depths of 16 to 24 inches, these TVs are far too big and bulky to mount on a wall.

- RPTVs require lamp replacements every few years.

Best For

- Anyone who wants to bring a cinematic experience home
- Big, roomy home theaters



HDTV Glossary

Balderdash! OK, HDTV jargon isn't quite *that* bad, but there are a few terms that every shopper needs to know. Here is your cheat sheet.

aspect ratio—Put simply, it's the shape of the TV's screen. An HDTV has a wider picture than a traditional TV of the same vertical screen height. An HDTV has a 16:9 aspect ratio, meaning that if its screen were 16 inches wide, it would be 9 inches tall. A regular 4:3 TV screen would be 12 inches wide at the same 9-inch height.

HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface)—A type of cable connection that carries both high-resolution video and uncompressed multichannel audio between HDTVs, home-theater receivers, and the other components required for your home-theater setup. HDMI cables maintain top picture and sound quality.

HD tuner—A built-in tuner for receiving local high-def broadcast TV channels. You won't need one if you have cable or satellite service. Most HDTVs include one, but separate HD tuners and antennas are available if your TV doesn't have one.

interlaced—When an HDTV displays an interlaced image, as in 1080i or 480i resolutions, it really shows you every other horizontal line of a frame of video (called a field) at a time. Sixty times a second, the TV displays the other field of the frame, or the lines not shown in the previous field. Interlaced video can appear to flicker or might cause moving objects on-screen to have blurred edges.

LCD (liquid-crystal display)—Like a notebook's screen, an LCD HDTV uses a fluid crystal substance to form pixels of color in front of a backlight. LCDs may not be able to match plasma TVs' deep black and gray areas, but they're lighter, sometimes less fragile, and considered easier to set up. These work better in brighter rooms or if you will be playing unchanging images on the screen for an extended period of time.

plasma—Plasma TVs use a tiny tube of gas for each pixel, and electricity makes each pixel glow. Plasmas create deeper blacks and sometimes brighter colors than LCDs and have better contrast. These also offer slightly better viewing angles. However, older or less expensive models can also suffer from permanent screen

damage if an unchanging image, such as a TV channel's stock ticker or parts of certain video games, is displayed too long.

progressive scan—A TV showing a progressively scanned image, as in 1080p or 720p resolutions, displays a full frame of video (both odd-lined and even-lined fields) all at once. Progressive scan video looks sharper than interlaced does and doesn't flicker.

projection—Some large-screen HDTVs offer lower-priced alternatives to LCDs or plasmas by using projection technologies. These technologies vary, but all projection TVs throw light on a screen from the front or rear. This means they are bulkier than plasmas or LCDs, but some sets have stellar picture quality.

viewing angle—No matter where you sit in front of an HDTV with a wide viewing angle, such as 170 degrees, its picture should look reasonably good. Test this before you buy.

widescreen—A TV or monitor that's wider horizontally in relation to its vertical height. HDTVs typically have a 16:9 aspect ratio rather than an older 4:3 display.

Should You Get An LCD Or LED-LCD TV?

So you've decided to get an LCD TV. The next step is deciding *which* LCD TV to invest in. LCDs use different kinds of lights to project an image onto the screen. A traditional LCD uses CCFLs or EEFLs whereas new LED-LCDs use LEDs. Here's a look at what sets apart a few of the latest LCD and LED-LCD TVs.

		Light projection	Size	Dimensions; Weight***	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs & Outputs	Refresh rate**
What It Means		How images are projected on-screen; type of backlight an LED-LCD uses	The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in this	The angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect devices; Outputs transfer information to peripherals	Speed at which a screen is redrawn every second
	Toshiba 32C100U MSRP: \$449.99* SKU 9796424	CCFL	32 inches	20.77x31.56x 3.52 inches; 23 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI, 1 Component, 1 PC, 1 USB; 1 audio output	60Hz
	LG 32LD400 MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 1199202	CCFL	32 inches	19.9x31.1x 3.1 inches; 20.6 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	2 HDMI, 1 Component, 1 PC, 1 USB; 1 audio output	N/A
	Samsung LN46C600F3F MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 1414158	CCFL	46 inches	26.3x43.4x3.1 inches; 39 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 PC, 1 USB; N/A	120Hz
	Westinghouse VR-5585DFZ MSRP: \$979* SKU 1466044	CCFL	55 inches	34.5x52x11.8 inches; 48.5 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	3 HDMI, 1 Composite, 2 Component, 1 PC; 1 audio output	120Hz
	Philips 46PFL7705DV/F7 MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 1390563	LED (N/A)	46 inches	26.38x43.39x 1.57 inches; 36.82 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 Ethernet, 1USB; 1 audio output	120Hz
	Sony NSX-46GT1 MSRP: \$1,399.99* SKU 1297488	LED (edge-lit)	46 inches	26.1x42.8x 2.25 inches; 46.4 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI, 1 Composite, 1 Component, 1 PC, 1 Ethernet, 4 USB; 1 audio output	60Hz
	Samsung UN55C6300SF MSRP: \$2,499.99* SKU 9790851	LED (edge-lit)	55 inches	30.2x50.5x 1.18 inches; 45 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 1 Composite, 1 Component, 1 PC, 1 Ethernet, 2 USB; 2 audio outputs	120Hz
	Mitsubishi LT-55265 MSRP: \$3,199.98* SKU 9941099	LED (edge-lit)	55 inches	33.3x50.9x 3 inches; 65.8 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 Ethernet, 2 USB; 1 audio output	240Hz

LED-LCD

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.
**Unless specified, this is without stand

** Comparing refresh rates between plasma and LCD TVs is like comparing apples to oranges.
For more in-depth information about refresh rates, please ask a sales associate.

Which Plasma TV Is Best For You?

If you're planning to buy a plasma HDTV, it might be hard to decide on one just by looking at a wall of gorgeous sets. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

	Size	Dimensions; Weight***	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs	Refresh rate**
What It Means							
	Insignia NS-42P650A11 MSRP: \$499.99* SKU 9748831	42 inches	27.5x40.6x 2.75 inches; 39.7 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 Composite	2 audio 600Hz
	Insignia NS-50P650A11 MSRP: \$697.99* SKU 9745916	50 inches	31.25x47.37x 2.75 inches; 50.7 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 Composite	2 audio 600Hz
	Panasonic TC-P46C2 MSRP: \$699.95* SKU 9788853	46 inches	28.5x44.6x3.7 inches; 62.9 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI, 2 Component, 2 Composite	1 audio 600Hz
	Panasonic TC-P42U2 MSRP: \$749.95* SKU 9761059	42 inches	26.1x40.6x3.7 inches; 49.6 pounds	1080p	N/A	3 HDMI, 2 Component, 2 Composite	1 audio 600Hz
	Samsung PN50C490B3D MSRP: \$1,099.99* SKU 1201341	50 inches	31x47.3x2.75 inches; 51.8 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI, 1 Composite, 2 Component, 1 PC, 1 USB	1 audio 600Hz
	Samsung PN50C680G5F MSRP: \$1,599.99* SKU 1201387	50 inches	31.4x47.8x2.8 inches; 52.9 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Composite, 2 Component, 1 PC, 2 USB	1 audio 600Hz
	Samsung PN50C7000YF MSRP: \$1,999.99* SKU 9809723	50 inches	29.5x47.7x1.4 inches; 54 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 Composite, 1 PC, 2 USB	1 audio 600Hz
	Panasonic TC-P50VT20 MSRP: \$2,499.95* SKU 9764162	50 inches	30.4x48.2x3.6 inches; 60.6 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 2 Composite, 1 PC, 2 USB	1 audio 600Hz

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**Unless specified, this is without stand

** Comparing refresh rates between plasma and LCD TVs is like comparing apples to oranges.
For more in-depth information about refresh rates, please ask a sales associate.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services



WALL MOUNTS & BRACKETS

- View your HDTV from the best possible angle
- Adjust your TV's position by tilting it up or down as needed
- Maximize space in your viewing room by hanging up your TV



CORD-CONCEALMENT KIT

- Hide multiple cords while keeping them organized and minimize cord clutter
- Keep the focus on your new HDTV, not the cords connected to it



HDMI CABLES

- Carry uncompressed digital audio and video signals to and from your HDTV and its components
- Eliminate interference from other components with shielding (found in higher-end cables)



CLEANING KIT

- Protect your HDTV's screen by using specially formulated sprays and cloths while cleaning it
- Eliminate the danger of scratching delicate screens
- No-drip formulas prevent damage to other home-theater equipment



TV STANDS

- Offer flexibility if you're unable to mount your HDTV on the wall
- Available in a variety of finishes to match any décor
- Provide a place for additional home-theater equipment



UNIVERSAL REMOTE CONTROL

- Simplify your home-theater setup with one remote that can control all of your components
- Program different functions so that you will be able to watch a movie by pressing just one button, for example
- Easily view options in the dark with a backlit LCD



SURROUND-SOUND SYSTEM

- Maximize your HDTV experience with theater-like audio
- Feel like you're in the movie scene instead of just watching it
- Even out softer and louder programming with an equalizer



SURGE PROTECTORS & POWER CONDITIONERS

- Protect your home theater from potential damage by using a surge protector that will absorb electrical fluctuations
- Filter out "dirty power" (also known as electrical "noise" or radio interference) that can degrade your home theater's audio and video with a power conditioner
- Have peace of mind knowing that your home theater will give you its peak performance for the longest amount of time



HOME-THEATER SERVICES

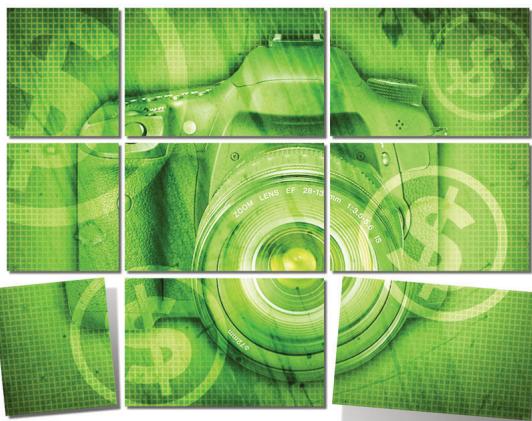
A home theater is a pretty big investment, so it's wise to consider letting a professional handle your installation and setup. Let your local CE retailer tackle the following tasks, and you'll be able to enjoy the full glory of HD in no time.

- Home Theater In-Home Consultation
- TV Recycling
- TV Calibration
- TV Mounting & Cord Concealment
- Remote Control Programming
- Speaker Setup

HOW TO BUY

A Digital SLR

Is There A D-SLR Camera In Your Future?



When you're seeking high-quality photo results, a D-SLR camera can deliver. Because of interchangeable lenses, adjustable settings, and other features, a D-SLR is the most powerful and flexible type of digital camera available. There are sizes and prices to fit most budgets; we'll show you what features to consider if you're thinking about a D-SLR.

Lenses. Although it's possible to purchase just a D-SLR body, package prices that include lenses are often a better deal. Lenses are usually classified by focal length. For example, short-range zoom lenses for everyday shooting have a focal length range of 18 to 55mm; long-range zooms, for bringing distant objects closer, have a range of 70 to 200mm plus; and wide-angle lenses, ideal for panoramas, have a focal length of 28mm or less. Some lenses feature built-in optical image stabilization, sometimes called VR or vibration reduction, which reduces the likelihood of blurry images.

... package prices that include lenses are often a better deal.

Sensors vs. megapixels. A D-SLR's sensor captures and processes the light of an image and converts it to a digital file. The larger and more sensitive the sensor, the better the image, with more accurate colors and less noise. The sensor's resolution, measured in megapixels, also influences the quality of a printed image. Generally, a 21MP image is of higher quality than an equivalent 10MP image, but keep in mind that megapixels are not the only measure of quality.

The larger and more sensitive the sensor, the better the image . . .

Ease of use. Preset scene modes can simplify your shooting: Just select the appropriate mode to capture perfect photos of kids and pets, sports, sunsets, and more. In-camera special effects, such as sepia tones or black-and-white, add another dimension to your shooting. Some D-SLRs include a guide mode that can help you take better photos, such as the Nikon D3000 (\$549.95; www.nikonusa.com).

HD video. Many D-SLRs can shoot full high-definition 1080p video, with sound. Just switch the camera to HD Movie Mode to capture HD video clips—length will depend on a memory card's storage capacity. You can view the video on the camera's LCD, transfer it to a computer, or output it to an HD television or monitor.

Focal Length

How It Relates To Your Camera

Much ado is made about the zoom capabilities of both point-and-shoot cameras and D-SLR lenses, but people often overlook the importance of focal length when determining the type and quality of pictures you can take with a given camera. Here, we'll explain what focal length is and how it comes into play when you're capturing images.



Focal Length Defined

Focal length is a feature of the camera lens, expressed in millimeters, that refers to the depth of field of the image. For example, a focal length of 28mm or lower is considered a wide-angle lens, while a focal length of 75mm or higher is a telephoto lens. A 50mm lens has about the same perspective as the human eye.

Essentially, any digital camera you buy will be a 35mm-equivalent camera, which means that the baseline focal length is 35mm. For example, if you have a camera with a 5X optical zoom, the lens can make the subject appear five times closer for a focal length of up to 175mm (35mm x 5).

Determine Your Focal Length Needs

If you want a point-and-shoot camera and expect to snap photos from a long distance, opt for a camera with a 5X or higher optical zoom. If you're looking for removable lenses for your D-SLR, consider the type of photos you're planning to take: For sweeping shots such as landscapes, a wide-angle lens (28mm or lower focal length) is ideal, whereas you need a telephoto lens (75mm or higher focal length) to capture faraway subjects, such as athletes at a sporting event or birds.

BY SETH COLANER

ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

Image Sensors

Q What is an image sensor?

A Also called an image sensing element, an image sensor is a silicon chip that converts light into electricity, which is then converted into digital data. These sensors are used in digital cameras, camcorders, and mobile phones to create images.

Q How is that digital data used in a digital camera?

A After light is converted to digital data, that data is processed within the camera into a digital image that's stored to internal memory or a removable memory card.

Q How is an image sensor's ability to capture light measured?

A Image sensors capture light using picture elements, or pixels, of which there are millions in place on a sensor. Manufacturers generally tout a sensor's photo-capturing power in megapixels, or 1 million pixels.

Q What is resolution?

A Resolution is the number of pixels an image contains. The higher the resolution, the more details are included and the larger quality prints are possible. Typically, 8MP resolution can produce quality prints up to 8 x 10 inches.

Q What are CCD and CMOS image sensors?

A These are the two most common types of image sensors used in consumer electronics. CCD stands for charge-coupled device and CMOS stands for complementary metal-oxide semiconductor. Although both types convert light to electricity, each pixel in a CCD is devoted to only capturing light while CMOS' pixels may perform additional tasks.

Q Which is better: CCD or CMOS?

A Prevailing opinion is neither offers huge advantages over the other. Traditionally, CCDs were thought to produce better quality but consume more power. CMOS is considered faster and cheaper to manufacture.

Q How does an "effective" pixel count differ from an "actual" pixel count?

A Actual is how many pixels the sensor has, though not every pixel may be used. Effective is how many pixels are used to capture light. A sensor's effective count is usually slightly less than its actual count.

Q How can an image sensor's physical size influence image quality?

A Generally, the larger a sensor is, the more light and details it can capture. Thus, two cameras may tout the same resolution, but if all else holds equal, the camera with the larger sensor will provide better quality.





Digital Imaging Glossary

Wondering what all of that lingo on camera boxes means? Use this glossary to help decode the world of digital imaging.

aperture—An iris-like diaphragm opening that can expand and contract the lens to let you control the amount of light that passes through it, thus affecting the exposure. The term “f-stop” can be used interchangeably with aperture.

burst mode—A camera mode that will let you capture several shots consecutively after pressing the shutter only one time.

CCD—A charge-coupled device is a type of image-sensing component. It converts light into energy that can be stored as digital data on your camera.

depth of field—The area that is in focus in front of and beyond the subject of your photo.

digital zoom—Magnifies an image digitally by cropping it and filling in the rest with interpolated pixels, thus degrading the quality. Even if the numbers are impressive, never choose a camera based on digital zoom.

f-stop—See aperture. Smaller f-stop numbers mean a wider lens opening; larger f-stop numbers mean a narrower lens opening.

ISO—For digital cameras, the ISO setting measures the sensitivity to light (similar to how it does with film). Digital camera ISO settings, such as 200, 400, and up, should capture photos as if one were using film with such a speed. Lower ISO settings mean you need more light and vice versa.

LCD—The screen on the back of the camera that lets you see a live-action view of your subject or your photo after you've taken it.

lens—The apparatus on the front of the camera that gathers and directs light toward the image sensor. In a digital camera, the lens likely has both an optical and digital zoom.

megapixel—Approximately 1 million pixels. The higher the megapixel count, the higher the resolution and the more you can crop, which means (in general) better-quality photos.

memory card—Because digital cameras have very little onboard memory, they need flash memory cards to store more than a dozen or so images. The type of memory card you need depends on the make and model of your camera. Some of the most popular memory cards are Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Compact Flash, and Sony Memory Sticks. In general, memory cards are quite small.

noise—The small statistical variations among pixels that lead to (usually) minor distortions of color in a photo.

optical zoom—The camera's mechanical ability to move the lens physically closer to your subject. With optical zoom, the higher the number (such as 5X or 10X), the better. When choosing a camera, always consider the optical zoom, not the digital zoom. Digital zoom artificially adds pixels.

resolution—The number of pixels in an image. The higher the resolution, the more detail and quality in a photo. Resolution is measured in a proportion (such as 2,272 x 1,704).

shutter—A mechanism that opens and closes to allow light to pass through the lens. You can usually control the camera's shutter speed.

shutter speed—The length of time a camera's shutter is open to let light through the lens and hit the sensor, which records the image. This is expressed in fractions of a second: For instance, a shutter speed of 1/250 means that the shutter is open for 1/250th of a second.

viewfinder—The small opening in the camera that the user looks through to frame a shot. Some digital cameras don't have a viewfinder and only use the camera's LCD to frame the shot.

white balance—Light levels are adjusted electronically to ensure whites in a certain environment are pure, leading to more life-like colors. White balance can usually be manually adjusted, too.

Which Point-&Shoot Camera Is Best For You?

If you're a little confused about the most important features in a digital camera, you're not alone. In this chart, we compare features from select digital cameras, and we also explain what these features mean.

	Resolution; Optical zoom	Shutter speed	Memory card	LCD size	Battery life	ISO	Movie mode
What It Means	More pixels mean bigger and clearer prints; Moves the lens closer to your subject	A faster shutter speed will let you snap action photos without blur	Removable card that stores your photos in your camera	The LCD is the screen on the back of the camera	Based on how many shots you can take on a single charge	A higher ISO lets you take better photos in low-light settings	Lets you record short video clips on your digital camera
	Olympus FE-4030 MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 9765198	14MP; 4X	1/4 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 64 to 1600 Yes
	Nikon Coolpix S4000 MSRP: \$179.99* SKU 9758647	12MP; 4X	1 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	3 inches	190 shots	Auto; Manual: 80 to 3200 Yes
	Kodak EasyShare M590 MSRP: \$199.95* SKU 1218605	14MP; 5X	1/2 to 1/1,200 second	microSD/microSDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 80 to 3200 Yes
	Fujifilm FinePix S2700 MSRP: \$199.95* SKU 9766755	12.2MP; 18X	1/4 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	3 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 64 to 6400 Yes
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-WX5 MSRP: \$269.99* SKU 1599086	12.2MP; 5X	2 to 1/1,600 seconds	Memory Stick Duo/PRO Duo/PRO HG-Duo/SD/SDHC/SDXC	2.8 inches	230 shots	Auto; Manual: 125 to 3200 Yes
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-TX5 MSRP: \$279.99* SKU 1599031	10.2MP; 4X	2 to 1/1,600 seconds	Memory Stick Duo/PRO Duo/PRO HG-Duo/SD/SDHC/SDXC	3 inches	250 shots	Auto; Manual: 125 to 3200 Yes
	Canon PowerShot SD4500 IS MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 1218465	10MP; 10X	1 to 1/4,000 second	SD/SDHC/SDXC/MMC/MMC Plus/HC MMC Plus	3 inches	150 shots	Auto; Manual: 125 to 3200 Yes
	Samsung CL80 MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 9875619	14.2MP; 7X	1/8 to 1/2,000 second	microSD	3.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 80 to 6400 Yes

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which D-SLR Is Best For You?

As D-SLR prices keep coming down, more photographers are turning to them, both as a first camera and as a trade-up to something better. In this chart, we'll help you sort through some of the features and performance specs of select D-SLR cameras.

		Resolution	LCD size	ISO range	Kit lens	Burst speed	Shutter speed
	What It Means	Image sensor in megapixels; more means a bigger image	Diagonal measurement of the screen on the back of the camera	A higher ISO range will let you take better photos in low-light situations	Standard lens bundled with the camera body	Frames per second (fps) you can shoot while in burst mode	The wider the range, the greater the gamut of long exposures to frozen action
Compact Interchangeable Lens	 Olympus PEN E-PL1 MSRP: \$499.99 SKU 9769158	12.3MP	2.7 inches	200 to 3200	14-42mm f/3.5-5.6	3fps	60 to 1/2,000 seconds
	 Sony NEX-3 MSRP: \$549.99 SKU 1599022	14.2MP	3 inches	200 to 12800	18-55mm f/3.5-5.6	7fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	 Samsung NX100 MSRP: \$599.99 SKU 1551148	14.6MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	50-200mm	3fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	 Nikon D3100 MSRP: \$699.95 SKU 1222817	14.2MP	3 inches	100 to 3200	18-55mm	3fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	 Pentax K-r MSRP: \$749.95 SKU 1627099	12.4MP	3 inches	100 to 12800	18-55mm	6fps	30 to 1/6,000 seconds
	 Sony A55 MSRP: \$849.99 SKU 1598997	16.2MP	3 inches	100 to 1600	18-55mm f/3.5-5.6	6fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	 Canon EOS 60D MSRP: \$999.99 SKU 1222177	18MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	N/A (body only)	5.3fps	30 to 1/8,000 seconds
	 Nikon D7000 MSRP: \$1,499.95 SKU 1230707	16.2MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	18-105mm f/3.5-5.6	6fps	30 to 1/8,000 seconds

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Which Digital Camcorder Is Best For You?

Digital camcorders come in a number of formats: DVD, hard drive, flash drive, MiniDV, and high definition are the most common. By comparing the following digital camcorders, you can determine which recording format and product best fits your style.

		LCD size	Optical zoom; Digital zoom	Recording speeds	Memory card	Digital still resolution	Lines of resolution
What It Means		Diagonal length of viewing screen	Two methods for magnifying depth of field; optical zoom is better	The speeds a particular camcorder can utilize during recording	Compatible flash card types (cards not included unless noted)	The number of megapixels the camcorder can capture in still images	Number of lines of horizontal resolution; the higher the number, the greater the detail
High-Definition	 JVC Everio GZMS110 MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 9731174	2.7 inches	39X; 800X	Ultra/Fine/ Norm/Eco	SD/SDHC	N/A	480
	 Canon FS31 MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 9739449	2.7 inches	37X; 2,000X	XP/SP/LP	SD/SDHC	0.45MP	480
	 Insignia NS-DV720PBL2 MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 1150586	3 inches	N/A; 3X	N/A	SD/SDHC	5MP	720
	 Canon VIXIA HF-R11 MSRP: \$699.99* SKU 9751699	2.7 inches	20X; 400X	FXP/XP+/ SP/LP	SD/SDHC	1.73MP	1,080
	 Samsung HMX-S10BN MSRP: \$749.99* SKU 1021531	3.5 inches	15X; 180X	N/A	SD/SDHC	5MP	1,080
	 Panasonic HDC-SDT750K MSRP: \$1,399.99* SKU 1261554	3 inches	12X; 700X	HA/HG/HX/HE	SD/SDHC/ SDXC	14.2MP	1,080
	 Sony HDR-XR150 MSRP: \$549.99* SKU 9746014	2.7 inches	25X; 300X	FX/FH/HQ/LP	SD/SDHC/ SDXC/Memory Stick PRO Duo	3MP	1,080
	 Panasonic SDR-H85S MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 9771031	2.7 inches	70X; 3,500X	XP/SP/LP/LXP/ LSP/LLP	SD/SDHC/ SDXC	0.3MP	480

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Expand Your Creativity With A Nikon D-SLR

As you step up to a D-SLR from a point-and-shoot, new opportunities for expanding the creativity in your photos accompany higher image quality and faster shutter response. Nikon's D-SLRs are easy to use, with a host of features to help you achieve outstanding images, including in-camera editing. Whether you're new to D-SLR picture-taking or ready to upgrade your current D-SLR, Nikon has a camera to exceed expectations.



Product Name	Nikon D3000 Kit 9456803	Nikon D3100 Kit 1222817	Nikon D90 Kit 8975184	Nikon D7000 Kit 1230707	Nikon D300S Body 9457349	Nikon D700 Body 8928985
SKU						
Estimated Street Price*	\$549.95	\$699.95	\$1,199.95	\$1,499.95	\$1,699.95	\$2,699.95
Compatible Lenses (for all functions)*	AF-S or AF-I lenses	AF-S or AF-I lenses	AF NIKKOR lenses	AF NIKKOR lenses	AF NIKKOR lenses	AF NIKKOR lenses
Included Lenses	18-55mm NIKKOR VR lens	18-55mm NIKKOR VR lens	18-105mm NIKKOR VR lens	18-105mm NIKKOR VR lens	Available separately	Available separately
LCD Monitor	3 inches, 230K-dot Resolution	3 inches, 230K-dot Resolution	3 inches, 921K-dot Resolution	3 inches, 921K-dot Resolution	3 inches, 921K-dot Resolution	3 inches, 921K-dot Resolution
Image Sensor	10.2MP CCD	14.2MP CMOS	12.3MP CMOS	16.2MP CMOS	12.3MP CMOS	12.1MP CMOS
Low-Noise ISO Sensitivity	100 to 1600 (expandable)	100 to 3200 (expandable)	200 to 3200 (expandable)	100 to 6400 (expandable)	200 to 3200 (expandable)	200 to 6400 (expandable)
Shutter Speed	30 to 1/4,000 sec.	30 to 1/4,000 sec.	30 to 1/4,000 sec.	30 to 1/8,000 sec.	30 to 1/8,000 sec.	30 to 1/8,000 sec.
Built-in Flash	Yes (auto or user-activated)	Yes (auto or user-activated)	Yes (auto or user-activated)	Yes (auto or user-activated)	Yes (user-activated)	Yes (user-activated)
Burst Mode	Up to 3fps	Up to 3fps	Up to 4.5fps	Up to 6fps	Up to 7fps	Up to 5fps
Picture Control Settings	Standard, Neutral, Vivid, Mono-chrome, Portrait, Landscape; Modified Picture Control can be stored.	Standard, Neutral, Vivid, Mono-chrome, Portrait, Landscape; Modified Picture Control can be stored.	Standard, Neutral, Vivid, Mono-chrome, Landscape, Portrait, and nine custom Picture Controls	Standard, Neutral, Vivid, Mono-chrome, Landscape, Portrait, and nine custom Picture Controls	Standard, Neutral, Vivid, Mono-chrome, Landscape, Portrait, and nine custom Picture Controls	Standard, Neutral, Vivid, Mono-chrome, Landscape, Portrait, and nine custom Picture Controls
In-Camera Editing Features	13 Functions: Trim, Soft Filter, and more	17 Functions: Filter Effects, Edit Movie, and more	13 Functions: Trim, D-Lighting, and more	18 Functions: Trim, Straighten, and more	10 Functions: Trim, Filter Effects, and more	7 Functions: Trim, D-Lighting, and more
HD Movie Mode	(Only Stop-Motion Movie)	Yes with sound	Yes with sound	Yes with sound	Yes with sound and Stereo Mic	No
Compatible Storage Media	SD, SDHC	SD, SDHC, SDXC	SD, SDHC	SD, SDHC, SDXC	CompactFlash I/II; SD and SDHC	CompactFlash Type I
Included Battery; Shots Per Charge	Li-Ion Rechargeable Battery; 500 (CIPA)	Li-Ion Rechargeable Battery; 550 (CIPA)	Li-Ion Rechargeable Battery; 850 (CIPA)	Li-Ion Rechargeable Battery; 1,050 (CIPA)	Li-Ion Rechargeable Battery; 950 (CIPA)	Li-Ion Rechargeable Battery; 1,000 (CIPA)

* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

† For complete compatibility see www.nikonusa.com.

Find The Nikon COOLPIX That Fits Your Life

Nikon's COOLPIX cameras won't let you miss the joy in life, thanks to their fast start-up time, shutter speed, and auto focus. Each COOLPIX offers an ultra-compact and stylish design that will deliver sharp and colorful photo results with its NIKKOR lens. With a wide range of Nikon COOLPIX cameras available, it couldn't be easier to find a camera that can keep up with your photography needs.



At the heart of the image™

Product Name	Nikon COOLPIX L22 9765091	Nikon COOLPIX L110 9758692	Nikon COOLPIX S3000 9765107	Nikon COOLPIX S4000 9758647	Nikon COOLPIX S6000 9789389	Nikon COOLPIX S8100 1222844	Nikon COOLPIX S80 1222862	Nikon COOLPIX P100 9758747
								
Additional Colors Available			9765125 9765143 9765134	9765161 9765152 9779807	9789458		1229231 1229125 1229268	
MSRP*	\$119.95	\$279.95	\$149.95	\$179.95	\$199.95	\$299.95	\$329.95	\$399.95
Resolution	12MP	12.1MP	12MP	12MP	14.2MP	12.1MP	14.1MP	10.3MP
Zoom	3.6X optical; 4X digital	15X optical; 4X digital	4X optical; 4X digital	4X optical; 4X digital	7X optical; 2X digital	10X optical; 4X digital	5X optical; 4X digital	26X optical; 4X digital
LCD Monitor	3 inches	3 inches	2.7 inches	3 inches	2.7 inches	3 inches	3.5-inch OLED touchscreen	3-inch tilt and swivel LCD
Internal Memory & Compatible Cards	19MB & SD/ SDHC	43MB & SD/ SDHC	47MB & SD/ SDHC	45MB & SD/ SDHC	32MB & SD/ SDHC	102MB & SD/ SDHC/SDXC	79MB & SD/ SDHC	43MB & SD/ SDHC
ISO	Up to 1600	Up to 6400	Up to 3200	Up to 3200	Up to 3200	Up to 3200	Up to 6400	Up to 3200
Shooting Modes	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 15 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 17 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 17 Scene Modes, plus Auto	17 Scene Modes; Program, Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority, and Manual Exposure Modes
Movie Mode	Yes	Yes (HD)	Yes	Yes (HD)	Yes (HD)	Yes (HD)	Yes (HD)	Yes (HD)
Touch-Panel Control	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Battery Type	2 AA batteries	4 AA batteries	Li-Ion rechargeable battery	Li-Ion rechargeable battery	Li-Ion rechargeable battery	Li-Ion rechargeable battery	Li-Ion rechargeable battery	Li-Ion rechargeable battery
Battery Life	240 shots with alkaline, 660 shots with lithium-ion	270 shots with alkaline, 840 shots with lithium-ion	220 shots	190 shots	210 shots	210 shots	150 shots	250 shots

* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services

**UV FILTER**

- Protects digital camcorder and D-SLR lenses from dust, dirt, fingerprints, and scratches
- Helps you get clearer, more detailed results when you're shooting in bright conditions

**MEMORY CARDS**

- Keep spare memory cards on hand so you can snap away without having to worry about running out of storage space
- Consider having several memory cards with smaller capacities instead of one card with a larger capacity; that way, if something goes wrong with one card, you'll still have a backup
- For your digital camcorder, keep more recording media in your bag than you think you'll need, just in case

**ADDITIONAL LENSES & CONVERTER LENSES**

- Extra lenses for D-SLRs and converter lenses for digital camcorders can enhance your results by extending your field of view, reducing glare, adding 3D, and more
- Telephoto lenses enable you to zoom in from far away, wide-angle lenses give you the ability to get a full view even if you're close to the subject, and macro lenses will let you achieve up-close, detailed shots of your photo subject

**EXTERNAL FLASH**

- Light up your subjects from greater distances
- Offers better control of lighting conditions when taking photos by directing the angle of the flash

**SPARE BATTERIES & CHARGERS**

- Make sure you're never caught without the power needed to capture the perfect moment
- Whether your camera uses proprietary batteries or AAs, keep at least one fully charged spare or set in your camera bag
- An additional battery charger will give you the flexibility to power up your camera batteries anywhere you're headed, even if you're traveling

**TRIPOD**

- Tripods are an easy way to ensure steady video footage
- Pan while recording video in one smooth motion
- Use a tripod and your camera's timer to get a picture of the entire group without needing someone to man the camera
- Keeps your camera steady while you're shooting close-up or distance shots, which can prevent photo blurring

**REMOTE SWITCH**

- A longer cable lets you snap photos without having to touch the camera, which can also reduce camera shake
- May enable the user to lock the shutter for longer exposure times

**DIGITAL IMAGING SERVICES**

Once you've set your sights on the camera or camcorder you want, consider taking advantage of the digital imaging services offered by your local CE retailer. Not only can you protect your investment, but you can also discover photography and videography skills that will make your photos and videos picture-perfect.

- D-SLR or Camcorder Service Plan
- D-SLR Training Course
- Camcorder Training Course

Prices for digital camcorders and cameras continue to fall as their video and picture quality improves, which is especially good news for first-time buyers or those looking to upgrade. Pairing your new camcorder or camera with the right products will bring you better photography results. Here are some must-have accessories you should consider buying to get the most out of your digital imaging device.

HOW TO BUY

An Uninterruptible Power Supply

PC Protection & Backup



Power surges and outages can be harmful to your computer and result in overloaded circuits or a loss of unsaved projects and other data. UPSes provide battery-powered backup power that lets you shut down your computer, preventing damage to components. We'll show you what to look for when shopping for one.

Time. It's essential that you look at a UPS' backup time. This is the amount of time the computer will continue to run using the UPS' battery after a power outage, which can range from 10 minutes up to an hour or more.

The choice between a longer or

shorter backup time depends on how much power your computer uses and how long it will take you to save your projects and shut down your system.

It's essential that you look at a UPS' backup time.

VA rating. A UPS' VA (volt-amp) rating is the maximum amount

of power it can provide to your computer components. For instance, if your computer tower has a VA rating of 600 (240 volts multiplied by 2.5 amps) and your monitor has a VA rating of 275 (110 volts multiplied by 2.5 amps), then you should find a UPS with a VA rating slightly higher (100 to 150VA) than 875VA.

A UPS' VA (volt-amp) rating is the maximum amount of power it can provide to your computer components.

Battery. Some UPSes have batteries that can be replaced. Over time, a UPS' battery power decreases, risking your computer's overall protection. To keep tabs on when your battery is near the end of its life, find a UPS with a battery replacement indicator.

Additional features. Most UPSes double as surge protectors, which work like sponges to absorb extra energy

during power surges to protect your computer from potential damage. And, if you regularly leave your com-

puter on when you're away from the house, you may want to find a UPS with software for automatic shutdown.

Most UPSes double as surge protectors . . .

It's Time To Get Serious About Online Security

Protect Your Family With Kaspersky® PURE Total Security

For all the Internet's positives, countless viruses, malware, spam, and other threats lurk about to overtake the PCs in your home. Kaspersky's (www.kaspersky.com) lineup of security programs, including its new Kaspersky PURE Total Security suite (\$89.95 for three licenses), keeps cybercriminals at bay with cutting-edge, powerful tools while also providing comprehensive parental controls, data backup tools, password and file management, and PC cleanup utilities. Better, Kaspersky PURE Total Security lets you easily manage all this protection on multiple PCs from just one PC.

Trusted Protection

Kaspersky has been a trusted name in security for years. The multi-layered protection it uses as a foundation for its products, which also include Internet Security and Anti-Virus (\$79.95 and \$59.95, respectively, for three licenses), provides a continually updated malware database and real-time cloud-enabled approach for scanning files. Kaspersky PURE Total Security proactively guards against emerging virus threats by hunting out suspicious system behavior; combats incoming and outgoing hacking attempts with a two-way firewall; performs behind-the-scenes scans that don't tax system resources; and corrals spam, phishing attacks, vulnerable programs, and applications exhibiting suspect behavior.

One PC To Rule All

Unlike other home security suites, Kaspersky PURE Total Security centralizes maintenance duties, letting you manage security settings, back up files, and set parental controls on each PC in your home from one computer. Beyond saving time and effort, you'll be able to use a centrally located, user-friendly interface to fix security issues on your PCs and ensure they always have the most current updates for viruses, spam, malware, rootkits, spyware, etc. What's more, you can ensure your family's irreplaceable files, such as your wife's financial documents and daughter's photos, are secure and backed up.

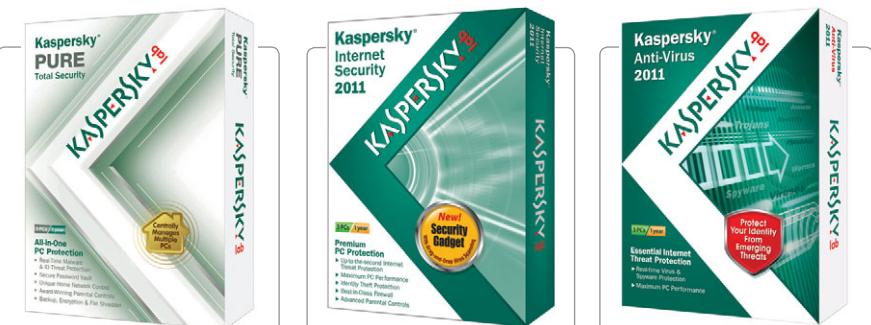


Keep Kids Safe Online

Protecting children against online threats takes diligence. Kaspersky PURE Total Security simplifies matters via parental controls you select and maintain from your PC. Beyond controlling your kids' access to PCs, Web sites, applications, and games, you can limit, block, and oversee the files they download and their social networking and instant messaging activities. You can also prevent the transmission of credit card data, phone numbers, and other personal information.

And There's Even More. . . .

Kaspersky PURE Total Security also protects your family from identity theft with its Password Manager and Virtual Keyboard. These features let you securely store login information for different Web sites and safely sign in to sensitive accounts, such as those for online shopping and banking. Finally, Kaspersky provides extensive technical support via an online knowledge base and free phone, live chat, and email-based support.



The Kaspersky Internet protection lineup includes PURE Total Security; Internet Security; and Anti-Virus. The following chart details how the software compares.

Key Features		PURE Total Security	Internet Security	Anti-Virus
Advanced Protection				
Real-time protection against all known and emerging viruses and spyware		✓	✓	✓
Small, frequent signature updates and cloud-based updates		✓	✓	✓
Intelligent scanning to maintain maximum PC performance		✓	✓	✓
Anti-phishing protection for digital identities		✓	✓	✓
Two-way firewall to block hacker attacks		✓	✓	
Robust anti-spam protection to filter out dangerous and unwanted emails		✓	✓	
Safe Run to open suspicious applications, files, email, or Web sites without damaging system		✓	✓	
Award-winning parental controls to monitor, limit, and block kids' online activities		✓	✓	
Easy Management				
Control Center to easily manage security for all PCs in the home		✓		
Remote parental control management		✓		
All-in-One				
Secure password management for banking and shopping online		✓		
Scheduled, automatic data backup of valuable digital assets		✓		
Encrypted data vaults to safely store and transfer sensitive files		✓		
File Shredder to irreversibly wipe deleted files from system		✓		
Free tech support (phone, live chat, email, and knowledge base)		✓	✓	✓

Get A Smarter Computer

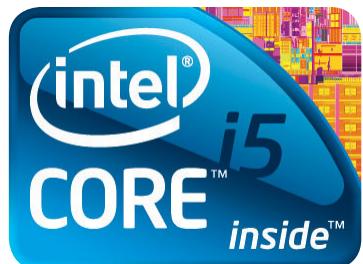
With Intel's Core Processors

The processor is the most important component in your PC, and as such, it plays a key role in everything you do. But not all processors are alike. Intel Core processors (www.intel.com) have the technology to throttle your gaming, accelerate your media creation, multiply your multitasking, supercharge your entertainment, and power your productivity like never before. With an Intel Core i3, i5, or i7 processor inside your next computer, you may not be able to keep up.



Intel Core i3 • The Smarts Start Here

Intel's Core i3 processors are the starting point for Intel's intelligent computing features. These efficient chips provide extended battery life and reduced energy consumption, all on a computer you can afford. The Core i3 processors support Intel's Hyper-Threading technology for 4-way processing and excellent multitasking performance. Intel Core i3 processors are ideally suited to road warriors, students, and anyone looking for a solid platform for Web browsing, document creation, and basic computing and multitasking.



Intel Core i5 • Performance That Keeps Pace

A Core i5 processor system offers improved performance compared to a Core i3 PC, but it features the same energy-efficient design and 4-way processing functionality for a superior multitasking experience. Unlike the Core i3, however, the Core i5 has Intel Turbo Boost technology, which lets the computer perform faster when you need the extra boost of performance and becomes energy efficient when you don't. Intel Core i5 processors are ideally suited to moderate multitaskers, media creators, casual-to-moderate gamers, and anyone looking for superior performance when running advanced computing workloads.



Intel Core i7 • Mastermind For Your PC

Computers with a built-in Intel Core i7 processor include the same smart features found in Core i3 and i5 systems, but they also offer support for more simultaneous processing. This ensures the computer can keep pace even when you're juggling tons of applications and workloads. With 8-way processing, there's not much risk of running too many operations on these systems. Intel Core i7 processors are ideally suited to gamers, professionals, and anyone who demands the highest performance graphics, audio, and video capabilities and the ultimate in computing and multitasking.



It's also worth noting that nearly every Intel Core processor-powered laptop sold in Best Buy stores has built-in Intel 4G WiMAX capabilities.



Intel AppUpSM Center

Fuel Your Netbook With Fun

Netbooks are known for being small, light, and ultra-efficient, which makes them perfect for on-the-go users who can't slow down for a recharge every few hours. And now, thanks to Intel's AppUpSM center, the nimble netbook gets an extra infusion of versatility. The Intel AppUp center (www.BestBuy.com/AppUp) is the best way to get apps that have been optimized to run on your netbook.

The AppUp Advantage

The Intel AppUp center is stocked with thousands of free and paid apps to customize your netbook. You can browse apps by categories, including Staff Picks, What's Hot, and New Releases. A search box at the top of the screen allows you to search for apps recommended to you by others, and the apps can be sorted by title, rating, release date, and free or paid.

Most paid apps are less than \$9.99, and you can buy with confidence with the Intel AppUp center try-before-you-buy policy. The service is easy to use, and all apps have been screened for known viruses and spyware.

ANGRY BIRDS



Only The Best In Apps

Developers are constantly adding apps to the Intel AppUp center library, so you can have access to the best netbook apps currently available. From one of today's most popular smartphone apps, Angry Birds, to the arcade classic Pac-Man—the Intel AppUp center has you covered.

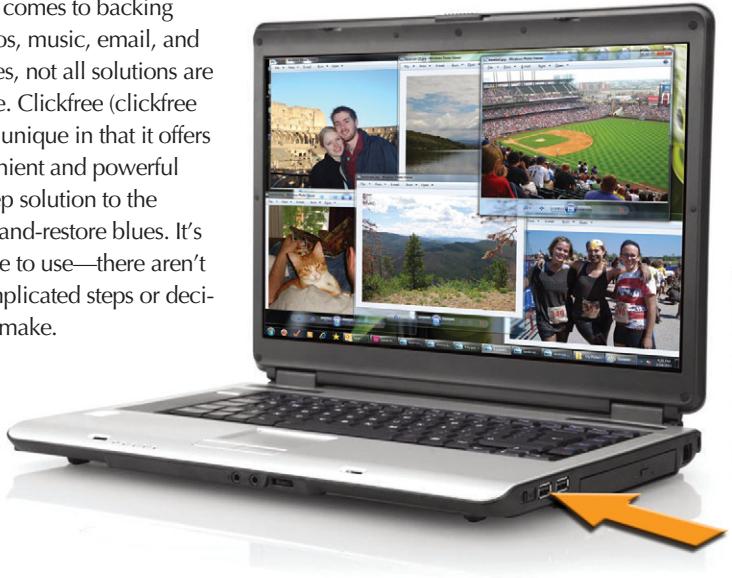




Not All Backups Are Created Equal

Clickfree's Patented Super-Simple System

When it comes to backing up photos, music, email, and other files, not all solutions are the same. Clickfree (clickfree.com) is unique in that it offers a convenient and powerful three-step solution to the backup-and-restore blues. It's so simple to use—there aren't any complicated steps or decisions to make.



Step 2 Check & See Your Files

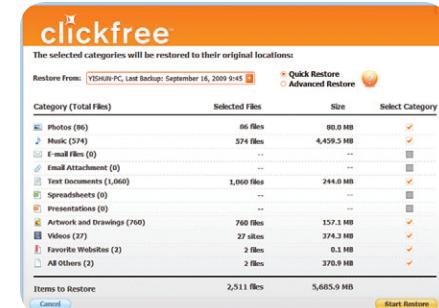
When your backup is complete, you won't just see a long list of file names and sizes. Instead, you can actually view your files on the Clickfree external hard drive, just as if they were files and folders on your PC.



Step 1 Clickfree Starts Automatically

Plug in a Clickfree external hard drive, such as the 500GB C2 Portable Backup drive (\$119.99), and the patented AutoRun technology begins an automatic backup of your computer's files—photos, videos, emails, you name it. With Clickfree, there's no complex software configurations or settings to deal with. In fact, you may not need to click a single thing.

Step 3 Easily Restore Your Files To Any PC



With one click, you can restore your files to any computer. What's more, the original folder setup of your files remains intact, so you won't need to reorganize files back to where you previously had them.

Clickfree's backup and restore tools beg the question: Can your backup do this?



Portable Hard Drives

Benefits Of Mobile Storage Devices

While a portable hard drive is convenient for backing up your important documents, media, and other files and expanding your computer's storage, there are even more reasons why these drives are beneficial for different lifestyles. Below are additional advantages of pairing a portable hard drive with your computer.

Affordability

Portable hard drives are typically priced based on the storage space they offer, meaning you'll pay more for a larger amount of space. With a range of storage capacities available (from 250GB to 2TB), you can avoid paying for space you won't use by selecting a model that fits your needs. If you plan to use a portable drive to store a small number of files, a lower-capacity 250GB unit should suffice. But, if you want to back up hundreds of your photo, movie, and project files, you should look for a drive with the largest capacity you can afford.

Portability

These hard drives are designed for someone who's always on the go. Weighing in around 6 ounces and standing no taller than 5 inches, a portable hard drive can easily fit into a bag or briefcase. Some models are built durably to withstand life's mishaps, such as accidental bumps and drops. A portable hard drive's mobility makes it simple to access documents using multiple computers. For example, students can transfer assignments between computer labs, and parents can share photos of their kids when they visit out-of-town family members.

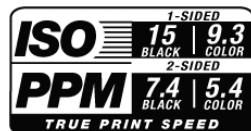
Simple Connectivity

Most portable hard drives have a USB 2.0 interface, allowing you to connect the device to a USB port on your computer to instantly save and access files without the need to install software. The USB connection also powers the portable hard drive, so you won't have to find an electrical outlet or deal with cable clutter to use the device. Aside from USB 2.0, you'll also find portable hard drive models that offer a FireWire connection. FireWire is found on select computers, and it can transfer files at speeds faster than USB 2.0.

The ISO Print Speed Standard

Make Your Pages Count

When you're shopping for a printer, it's likely you want a model that can output documents quickly. However, when you try to compare the output speed of printers from different manufacturers, you might not be making an apples-to-apples comparison. To help you correctly judge the print speeds on all types of printers, the International Organization for Standardization created ISO ppm, which uses a single testing standard to level the print speed playing field. Industry-approved and internationally accepted, ISO ppm was developed by technical experts and representatives from companies such as Canon, Epson, HP, Kodak, Lexmark, and Brother.



Q: What is ISO ppm?

A: ISO ppm is a *true* measure of print speed. To determine this specification, manufacturers must test a printer with default, out-of-the-box settings for real-world results.

Q: Why is ISO ppm important?

A: Everyone can benefit from saving time, and matching your needs with a printer that has the right ISO ppm can boost your productivity.

Q: How does ISO ppm make shopping for a printer easier?

A: Because ISO ppm offers a true print speed result, you can directly compare printers regardless of their brand or model. For example, Epson's WorkForce® 840 All-In-One Printer (\$299; www.epson.com) has standardized print speeds of 15 ISO ppm (black) and 9.3 ISO ppm (color) as well as two-sided print speeds of 7.4 ISO ppm (black) and 5.4 ISO ppm (color).

Q: What is two-sided ISO ppm?

A: This indicates how quickly a model can print on both sides of a single sheet of paper. This print capability and speed can lead to additional time and cost savings. For instance, a printer with a 500-sheet paper capacity can print up to 1,000 pages using both sides without requiring you to add more paper to its tray.



Speed Matters

Both business owners and individual users can increase their productivity by finding a printer that's fast enough for their needs. ISO ppm print speed is key to a direct and dependable comparison between printers. In other words, a printer with a 15 ISO ppm will perform much faster than a printer with a 7 ISO ppm. Know your ISO ppm and keep your business or home running at full speed.

Windows 7 Has Met Its Mouse

Microsoft Touch Mouse



Designed exclusively for Windows 7, Microsoft Touch Mouse (\$79.95; www.microsoft.com) brings multitouch to the PC.



Windows 7 At Your Fingertips

Experience multi-touch with natural gestures for effortless computing. Touch Mouse gives you even easier access to the enhanced productivity of Windows 7. Tap, scroll, and swipe your fingers in different combinations across the mouse to glide through items such as photo albums and blog posts.

Touch Is All It Takes

Use one, two, or three fingers to prompt different commands. One finger: scroll, flick, or pan any direction for quick navigation. Two fingers: Snap to see your windows side by side, or maximize and minimize. Three fingers: Show all open Windows or reveal your desktop.

Microsoft Touch Mouse is comfortable for use in either hand, and it also uses BlueTrack Technology™, so you can use your mouse on virtually any surface including the living room carpet or a glossy table at your favorite coffee shop¹. And because the Touch Mouse's Nano transceiver is small enough to store inside the mouse or leave in your computer's USB port, you'll never misplace it.

Order Yours Today

If you want to know more about how the Microsoft Touch Mouse works, check out bit.ly/hzC5UU to see an informative video tour, image gallery, and the story behind the Touch Mouse.

The Touch Mouse will be available in May 2011, and can be preordered now from Bestbuy.com.

¹ BlueTrack Technology does not work on clear glass or mirrored surfaces.

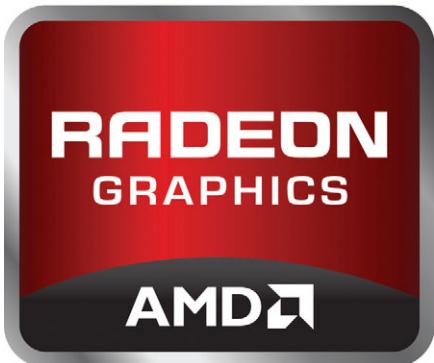
Experience Powerful Laptop Graphics

AMD Radeon™ HD 6000M GPUs Offer The Ultimate In Video, Gaming & Speed

Whether you're a gamer, a video enthusiast, or a busy office worker—or a bit of all three—you'll be impressed by AMD's (www.amd.com/6000m) new family of graphics cards: The AMD Radeon™ HD 6000M series graphics cards bring exceptional performance and efficiency to your laptop.*

Performance: Enhanced Gaming, Vivid Video, Faster Apps, Web & More

AMD's second-gen DirectX® 11 graphics provide enhanced image quality and performance for gaming. Add to that GDDR5 high-bandwidth graphics memory and you have a powerhouse system. GDDR5 pushes AMD's Radeon™ HD 6000M series GPUs to the limit, letting you enjoy efficient and advanced laptop performance. AMD EyeSpeed acceleration technology allows an AMD Radeon™ HD 6000M series graphics card to boost system performance by offloading demanding tasks and applications from your CPU, freeing up its processor for other tasks. The result? Improved all-around computing performance, as the two processors work together to lighten the load—whether you're viewing video or running heavy-duty apps—and speed up processing, helping you do more with your notebook in less time.



SUPPORTS
Microsoft® DirectX® 11



*Not all features may be supported on all systems—check with system manufacturer for specific model capabilities and supported technologies. **Dependant on notebook system configurations.

Entertainment: HD & 3D On Your Laptop

The AMD Radeon™ HD 6000M series graphics family supplies the power you need to turn your laptop into a portable entertainment center. When you're on the go, you'll be able to play 1080p HD and 3D movies on your laptop. And when you're at home, the built-in HDMI 1.4a support lets you connect your notebook to an HDTV with 3D capabilities to watch 3D Blu-ray blockbusters with 7.1-channel high-definition audio, such as Dolby® TrueHD and DTS-HD MasterAudio™, delivering theater-class entertainment in the comfort of your living room.

Power Efficiency: Help Your Battery Last Longer

AMD's newest graphics lineup features sophisticated and efficient power management technologies that help result in a long laptop battery life: Watch a complete HD movie on a single battery charge, as power-saving features combine with more efficient processing to help make your laptop run long, even as you multitask.**

ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

Routers

Q What does a router do?

A It serves as the central communications hub in a computer network, connecting PCs and other devices with each other and possibly sharing an Internet connection with all of them.

Q Why would I even need a router?

A In addition to sharing an Internet connection, you could trade files between computers and stream media from one location to another. You could also connect a single printer and/or backup drive that multiple computers use.

Q So a router isn't just for computers?

A Right. And it goes beyond printers and hard drives. Home-theater components, such as game consoles, HDTVs, and Blu-ray Disc players can be connected to a router to access Internet content, system updates, and more.

Q What are the advantages of a wired router?

A Cabled connections don't experience disconnections, dropouts, and speed fluctuations due to frequency interference. They're usually plug-and-play simple, too, without any need for the passwords and precautions essential for blocking outsiders from accessing a Wi-Fi network.

Q What are the advantages of a wireless router?

A First, convenience. It's great for connecting several components all over the house without having to run

long cables. Then there's mobility. With a Wi-Fi-enabled device, you can enjoy networking and Internet connectivity anywhere you can access the signal.

Q Even if I get a wireless router, could I still plug wired components into it?

A Depending on the specific router, yes. Many Wi-Fi routers have a few ports available for cables. You could, for example, plug in a desktop PC while connecting wirelessly with notebook computers and other portable devices.

Q What kind of cables should I use with a router?

A Computers and most other components require Ethernet cables. Their plugs look like oversized phone plugs. Some routers have a USB port or two for connecting a printer or hard drive.

Q In what order do I need to connect the router and other components?

A Typically, the chain goes from wall input, to DSL or cable modem, to router, to wired components. With cable TV service, you may also need to insert a signal splitter between the wall input and modem.

Q How secure is a router, so my home network stays protected?

A Many routers have a built-in firewall that protects all your network components, because it sits between them and your Internet connection. Also, wireless routers let you enable strong, password-protected security to keep out unwanted visitors.





Computing Glossary

Shopping for a computer can be intimidating, especially with all of the complex terminology. Here, we'll explain some common computer jargon.

Bluetooth—A short-range wireless standard that connects devices such as computers, printers, headsets, and digital cameras so they can be used together without being connected physically with a cord.

broadband—Network connections that transmit high-speed Internet access. Broadband speed varies depending on the provider. Cable companies offer speeds of around 8 to 11Mbps, whereas phone companies offer DSL, which supports speeds of 3 to 5Mbps.

CRT (cathode-ray tube)—An old analog display technology for TVs and computer monitors. It features an electron gun illuminating phosphor dots that line the inside of a glass tube. When the phosphors are lit, they display on-screen images. CRTs consume a great deal of power and are heavy and bulky. Many CRTs support digital signals, though these degrade when converted to analog.

dual-core processor—This integrated circuit, which controls the computer,

features two processors, each with its own cache, on a single die or chassis. In a dual-core configuration, the operating system has two processors to handle instructions, speeding up the computer and its ability to multitask.

Ethernet—A widely used LAN protocol in which computers and networks are physically linked with a cord.

firewall—Hardware or software that limits access by a network or another outside source to your computer; it also may limit your computer's access to the network. These security measures are designed to protect your computer from outsiders who'd like to exploit it in some way. By the same token, firewalls may prevent infected files on your computer from accessing the larger network and spreading the problem to other users.

LAN (local-area network)—A group of computers that are physically connected by wires so they can communicate with one another and share information.

LCD (liquid-crystal display)—This technology sandwiches liquid crystals between thin sheets of glass. The crystals twist and untwist to allow and block light from a backlight, forming the images you see. LCDs are thinner, lighter, and consume less power than CRTs. Initially used mostly in notebook PCs,

you'll now find LCD TVs and computer monitors, and they are also in digital cameras, cell phones, portable DVD players, and other devices.

office suite—Productivity software, such as Microsoft Office, StarOffice, and OpenOffice, that often includes word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, database, and financial tools.

operating system—The software, such as Windows Vista, Windows 7, or Mac OS X, that controls a computer and its peripherals and serves as the primary interface for the users.

processor—Also known as a microprocessor or the CPU, this integrated circuit controls the computer.

RAM (random-access memory)—A type of memory that's read from and written to by the CPU and hardware.

upgradeable—This term refers to the ability to add or swap out hardware to boost a computer's performance, increase its speed, or replace a defective or obsolete device or component. For instance, you may add more memory, replace an old CRT with a widescreen LCD, or swap out an older video card for a newer one that features an ATSC TV tuner so you can watch digital TV on your computer. Look for a computer with expansion slots or empty bays.

Which Laptop Computer Is Best For You?

A laptop computer is a pretty big purchase for most people, and it's usually a bit overwhelming, too. This chart compares the features and specs from several different types of laptop models.

		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Graphics Card	Dimensions; Weight	Optical drives; Media card reader
What It Means		The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Controls the quality of your video and images	Height x width x depth; How much the laptop weighs; Screen size	Drives that can read and write discs; Slots that read media cards without a separate peripheral
	HP G62-457DX MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 1929067	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.13GHz Intel Pentium	320GB; 4GB	Intel HD graphics	1.4x14.7x9.7 inches; 5.5 pounds; 15.6 inches	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Lenovo B560 MSRP: \$479.99* SKU 1954496	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.13GHz Intel Pentium	320GB; 4GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator HD	1.3x14.8x10 inches; 4.9 pounds; 15.6 inches	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Gateway NV53A52u MSRP: \$579.99* SKU 1250655	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.4GHz AMD Turion II X2	500GB; 4GB	ATI Radeon HD 4250	1.3x15x10 inches; 5.7 pounds; 15.6 inches	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Toshiba A665-S5170 MSRP: \$691.99* SKU 1859059	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.53GHz Intel Core i3	640GB; 4GB	Mobile Intel HD graphics	1.5x15x10 inches; 5.8 pounds; 15.6 inches	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Sony VAIO VPCF131FM MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 1861115	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.66GHz Intel Core i5	750GB; 4GB	NVIDIA GeForce 310M	1.6x15.3x10.4 inches; 6.4 pounds; 16.4 inches	DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Samsung QX410-J01 MSRP: \$954.99* SKU 1255544	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.53GHz Intel Core i5	640GB; 4GB	NVIDIA GeForce 310M	1.1x13.7x9.7 inches; 5.1 pounds; 14 inches	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Dell XPS X15-1031AAL MSRP: \$1,149.99* SKU 1997242	Windows 7 Home Premium	1.73GHz Intel Core i7	640GB; 6GB	NVIDIA GeForce GT 435M	1.3x15x10.4 inches; 6.1 pounds; 15.6 inches	DVD±RW/BD/CD-RW; Yes
	Apple MacBook Air MC506LL/A MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 1535123	Mac OS X Snow Leopard	1.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	128GB; 2GB	NVIDIA GeForce 320M	0.7x11.8x7.6 inches; 2.3 pounds; 11.6 inches	No; No

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which Netbook Is Best For You?

Netbooks don't offer the full capabilities that notebooks do, but these compact devices are ideal for those who need to stay connected while on the go. To find the netbook that fits your mobility needs, here's a comparison of the latest models.

		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Graphics card	Memory card reader	Ports
What It Means		The software (usually Windows XP or 7) that controls your PC	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Controls the quality of the video and images you see on-screen	Slots that can read media cards without a separate peripheral	Sockets that give your computer access to different peripherals
	Toshiba mini NB505-N500BL MSRP: \$287.99* SKU 1853531	Windows 7 Starter	1.66GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/SDHC/SDXC/MMC	3 USB; 1 VGA; 1 Ethernet
	HP Mini 110-3525dx MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 1915082	Windows 7 Starter	1.66Ghz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/SDHC/MMC/MS/MS PRO	3 USB; 1 VGA; 1 Ethernet
	HP Mini 210-2145dx MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 1783123	Windows 7 Starter	1.66GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/SDHC/MMC/MS/MS PRO	3 USB; 1 VGA; 1 Ethernet
	Asus Eee PC 1018P-BBK804 MSRP: \$349* SKU 1647223	Windows 7 Starter	1.66GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel UMA Graphics	SD/SDHC/MMC	3 USB; 1 VGA; 1 Ethernet
	Asus Eee PC 1015PEB-RD601 MSRP: \$349* SKU 9966308	Windows 7 Starter	1.66GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/SDHC/MMC	3 USB; 1 VGA; 1 Ethernet
	Dell Inspiron Mini 1012-2199OBK MSRP: \$384* SKU 1063166	Windows 7 Starter	1.66GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Crystal HD Broadcom Media Accelerator	SD/SDHC/MMC/MS/MS PRO	3 USB; 1 VGA; 1 Ethernet
	Toshiba mini NB305-N444BN MSRP: \$479* SKU 9999013	Windows 7 Starter	1.66GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/SDHC/SDXC/MMC	3 USB; 1 VGA; 1 Ethernet
	Lenovo IdeaPad 0651-7HU MSRP: \$529* SKU 1485072	Windows 7 Home Premium	1.66GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/SDHC/MMC/MS/MS PRO/xD-Picture Card	2 USB; 1 VGA; 1 Ethernet

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Software Listings

Get More Out Of Your PC

Computers can be used to create greeting cards, play games, keep track of your finances, and more. The thing is, most of these functions aren't available straight out of the box. To fully harness your computer's potential, you'll need to buy software. Here are some options.

Audio, Photo & Video

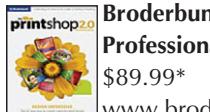


Adobe Photoshop Elements 9

\$99.99*

www.adobe.com

Easily edit, share, and manage your photo collection and get professional results using Adobe Photoshop Elements 9.



Broderbund Print Shop 2.0 Professional

\$89.99*

www.broderbund.com

Create sophisticated projects using the Wizard Design tool or a ready-made template. You can create greeting cards, banners, newsletters, photo projects, and more.



Roxio Creator 2011

\$99.99*

www.roxio.com

Use Roxio Creator 2011 to easily capture, enhance, and preserve your photos, videos, and audio projects. New features include 3D effects, video stabilization and rotation, and a redesigned backdrop interface. 3D glasses are also included.



Corel PaintShop Photo Pro X3 Ultimate

\$99.99*

www.corel.com

Corel PaintShop Photo Pro X3 lets you manage, edit, and share your digital photos. Make automatic fixes in the enhanced Express Lab or you can use the included advanced editing tools.



Pinnacle Studio Ultimate Collection

\$129.99*

www.pinnaclesys.com

Pinnacle Studio Ultimate Collection comes with a full set of plug-ins and a Chroma-key green screen for advanced effects, editing, and production.



Adobe Premiere Elements 9

\$99.99*

www.adobe.com

Turn your home videos into movies using special effects, music, and images from Adobe Premiere Elements 9. Once you're done, you can share them via disc or the Internet.



Roxio Easy VHS To DVD

\$59.99*

www.roxio.com

Use Roxio's Easy VHS To DVD software to easily transfer video from VHS, Hi8, V8, or analog camcorders to DVD. You can also edit the video and add professional effects.



Nero 10 Multimedia Suite Platinum HD

\$129.99*

www.nero.com

Nero 10 Multimedia Suite Platinum HD makes it easy to import video from nearly any source, add effects, and then burn the final result to BD, DVD, or CD. You can also share it between mobile devices.

Business Applications



Microsoft Office Home & Student 2010

\$149.99*

www.microsoft.com

The Home and Student version of Microsoft Office 2010 has enhanced features for creating and managing documents and includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote.



Individual Software ResumeMaker Professional

\$29.95*

www.individualsoftware.com

It's easy to write a professional resume quickly using ResumeMaker Professional. The software also includes advanced search tools.



Intuit Quicken Home & Business 2011

\$99.99*

www.quicken.intuit.com

The 2011 version of Quicken Home and Business will help you categorize your home and business finances and show you profits and losses at a glance. Plus, you can streamline the tax-paying process when the time comes.



Intuit QuickBooks Pro 2011

\$229.95*

www.quickbooks.intuit.com

Easily keep track of your company's finances with QuickBooks Pro 2011. You can view expense and income breakdowns, account balances, and more, so it's easy to know where your money is going.

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Games/ Entertainment



Activision Barbie & The Three Musketeers
\$19.99*

www.activision.com

Choose a character with a unique ability to help you tackle obstacles and solve puzzles to uncover a plot against the prince and become a true musketeer.



Disney Interactive Studio Alice In Wonderland
\$19.99*

disney.go.com/disneyinteractivestudios

Inspired by the Tim Burton film, this game lets you fall down the rabbit hole and experience Alice's adventure in Wonderland. You can play as the Mad Hatter, White Rabbit, or another character from the film to help Alice on her journey.



Electronic Arts The Sims 3
\$49.95*

www.ea.com

Create your very own Sims. Customize their personalities, appearances, and homes and send them out into the world to explore the neighborhood and meet new friends.



Lego Indiana Jones 2: The Adventure Continues
\$29.99*

www.lucasarts.com

Explore the locations from all four films and build your own levels and environments. Your favorite Indiana Jones characters are depicted in Lego form.

Home Productivity



Nuance Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11 Home
\$99.99*

www.nuance.com

Dictate emails, reports, and documents much faster than you can type by letting Dragon NaturallySpeaking do the typing for you. The software has an accuracy rate of up to 99%.



Apple MobileMe
\$99*

www.apple.com

MobileMe, Apple's Internet service, lets you keep your email, contacts, and calendar up-to-date across your iPhone, iPod touch, Mac, and PC. It also lets you store and share documents online via iDisk, and you can manage everything online through a suite of Web applications at www.me.com.



H&R Block At Home Deluxe
\$44.95*

www.handrblock.com

The Deluxe version of H&R Block At Home makes it easy for homeowners and investors to file tax returns. Once you're done, you can use the five included federal e-files to file online.



Nova Development Family Tree Maker Deluxe
\$69.95*

novadevelopment.com

Explore and preserve your family history with the software, a free three-month subscription to Ancestry.com, an iPhone app, and more.

Security/ Utilities



Kaspersky Lab Internet Security 2011
\$79.95*

See p. 31

www.kaspersky.com

This software includes features to protect you from the latest viruses, spyware, and malware threats for one year and three PCs.



Kaspersky Lab Pure Total Security
\$89.95*

See p. 30

www.kaspersky.com

Kaspersky Pure Total Security offers all-in-one protection for your PC. It protects against Internet threats and identity theft and also offers backup, encryption, and clean-up tools.



Webroot Internet Security Complete 2011
\$79.95*

www.webroot.com

Internet Security Complete can protect your computer from spyware, viruses, and spam. It also uses advanced technologies to ensure your identity is safe as you shop and browse the Internet. You can also back up digital photos and other files and sync them with a PC.



Trend Micro Titanium Maximum Security
\$39.95*

www.trendmicro.com

Trend Micro's Titanium Maximum Security is easy to use and provides a variety of tools that can keep your computer and identity safe.

System Clean-Up & Repair



Avanquest Fix-It Utilities 11 Professional
\$49.95*

www.avanquest.com

Make your computer run like new. Use Fix-It Utilities 11 to defragment, clean, repair, and optimize your Windows registry to improve overall PC performance and check your system memory, hard drive, and more.



iolo System Mechanic
\$49.95*

www.iolo.com

With System Mechanic, you can find and fix errors and fragmentation on your PC, clean out clutter, and optimize your system for best performance.



Acronis True Image Home 2011
\$49.99*

www.acronis.com

This software backs up your entire computer, including the operating system, files, settings, and more, so you can easily re-create your system in the event of data loss.



iolo DriveScrubber
\$29.95*

www.iolo.com

When it's time to get rid of your old computer, use DriveScrubber to ensure all of your personal data has been deleted. DriveScrubber will wipe your entire drive, including free space, and restore damaged drives.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services



KEYBOARD

- An ergonomic design can cut down on the wrist strain associated with carpal tunnel syndrome
- Bluetooth connectivity lends itself to a tidy desk because there's one less wire to contend with
- A specialty model, such as a gaming or media keyboard, adds functionality to your pastime of choice



USB HUB

- Offers an affordable way to connect all of your peripherals, even if you have more gadgets than USB ports
- Adds the convenience of easy USB access—no more reaching behind your computer to plug in your USB devices



EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE

- Protect precious video and photo memories: Back up to an external hard drive
- Keep your computer running more efficiently by saving large files, such as your media collection, on an external drive



MOUSE

- A wireless mouse will cut down on cable clutter at your desk and also offers the convenience of portability for laptop use
- A gaming mouse can deliver better accuracy and speed for the ultimate in control
- Consider customizable buttons if you want to be able to access media, files, or programs with one-touch access



CLEANING KIT

- Specially designed cleaners will keep your computer screen clean without running the risk of scratching its surface
- Cloths are often made of low-conductivity material in order to reduce static



PRINTER

- A quality photo printer will eliminate trips to the drug-store for 4x6 prints and give you the ability to instantly share your photo memories
- An all-in-one model is the perfect addition for any busy family that needs a device that can operate as a copier, scanner, fax machine, and printer



SURGE PROTECTOR

- Ensure the electrical current running to your desktop or laptop computer doesn't exceed proper levels
- Portable models will protect your laptop when you're on the go for work or play



COMPUTING SERVICES

To keep your desktop or laptop computer in tip-top shape, take advantage of the computing services offered at your local CE retailer. They can help you keep your machine running smoothly and free from the dangers that lurk online.



WEB CAM

- Bridge the gap between long-distance family and friends with online video chatting by adding a Web cam to your setup

- Computer Setup & Networking
- Virus & Spyware Removal
- Data Backup & Recovery
- Hardware & Software Upgrades
- Training & Consultation



A Tablet Overview

Move Over PCs & Notebooks

Tablets are not just mobile versions of a desktop PC or keyboard-less versions of a notebook. Tablets offer an experience that is fundamentally different than the computing experience on a traditional PC. They excel in delivering all the Web services you know and love; provide unprecedented access to social media; and let you consume music, movies, and other content like never before.

Connectivity

A tablet's most powerful feature isn't the processor or the graphics chip—it's Internet access, and not every tablet connects the same. While most models, excepting a few of the more inexpensive eReaders, offer some form of Wi-Fi, some also offer 3G or 4G connectivity. For most of those models, however, you'll need a data plan with a wireless carrier. Mobile broadband-enabled tablets have the advantage of being able to connect almost anywhere your carrier has service.

Screen Size & Type

Some tablets feature color LCD screens. They are bright and colorful, but tend to drain the battery quickly. Other tablets, such as some that are specifically designed for reading ebooks, use E Ink screens, which are monochrome and mimic real books by requiring reflected light to view, but can last weeks on a single charge. Tablet screen size has a direct impact on the device's portability. Mobile tablets might have smaller screen sizes to be more portable, while media tablets have bigger screens for enjoying videos, photos, and more.

Operating Systems & Interfaces

One of the biggest differentiators for potential tablet buyers is the operating system. For instance, some tablet operating systems share features with smartphones and may be very familiar to you. Another OS-dependent feature is the ability to install apps to expand the functionality of your device. Most tablets use touchscreens, typically those equipped with color LCD screens. These can make navigating media, content, and apps very easy.

Storage

A constant connection to the Internet is the distinguishing factor for most tablets, which is why you typically won't find tablets with terabytes of internal storage. Streaming media is the rule, not the exception here. However, some tablets have enough storage space for you to be able to store at least some photos, videos, music, ebooks, or other files on the device or a memory card.

One of the biggest differentiators for potential tablet buyers is the operating system.



Tablets Defined

Different Formats For Different Purposes

There are many types of tablets, but not all offer the same functionality: We'll provide some background info so that you know what you're looking for when considering a tablet.

What Can I Do With A Tablet?

- Functionally, most tablets are multipurpose devices. Because most include the ability to connect to the Internet, they're perfect for creating, enjoying, and sharing media. With a tablet, you can play games, create documents, create and view presentations, and run special-purpose apps purchased at an online app store. (Those apps extend and enhance the functionality of the tablet, adding such things as the ability to view TV or movies, purchase and play music, and more.) Many tablets provide built-in tools or online access to apps that allow you to purchase, download, and read books.
- There is a wide variation in tablet functionality. Some excel primarily at one function; those may be smaller than other tablets. A "slate" tablet is a flat, thin slab that usually lacks a physical keyboard, but which is—often with the help of additional apps—suitable for a number of communicative and computing tasks.

Tablet Features

- A tablet is lightweight and portable: Able to go anywhere you go, it's bigger than a phone, but smaller than a typical laptop. It has an operating system and usually offers some sort of integrated wireless connectivity to the Web via Wi-Fi, 3G cellular, or both. With a 7- to 12-inch display, a tablet often uses a touchscreen interface, and may work with a stylus or digital pen. They use a "virtual" on-screen keyboard; however, some might be compatible with an optional external keyboard accessory.

Because most include the ability to connect to the Internet, they're perfect for creating, enjoying, and sharing media.



... its purpose is to improve your life and help you accomplish your goals.

Tablet Benefits

Tablets Connect, Entertain & Inform

A tablet is like any other tool: Essentially, its purpose is to improve your life and help you accomplish your goals. A tablet can help you get organized, keep you entertained or informed, or let you communicate more easily with friends, family, and colleagues. You'll find that different types of tablets offer different benefits, some more meaningful to you than others.

Here are some things a tablet can help you do:

- **Web browsing and email.** Most tablets provide access to the Web, either through Wi-Fi or a 3G cellular network. As long as you're connected, most will also let you send and receive email.
- **Productivity.** If you tend to create as much content as you consume, look for a tablet that can run office-type apps powerful enough to keep up.
- **Reading.** Many tablets can display (and allow you to purchase) ebooks. Purpose-built eReaders tend to offer the best visibility, especially in sunlight.
- **TV, radio, and music.** If you love to listen to music and watch TV, a number of tablets will let you do so. TV especially requires a lot of

bandwidth, so consider a Wi-Fi-capable tablet: A 3G cellular connection may not do the job.

- **Social media.** If you can access the Web, you can probably access your favorite social networking sites, including Twitter, Facebook, and others. Many social networks have created apps for specific tablets.
- **Movies.** Looking for video entertainment? Many tablets can provide access to subscription-based movie and video services. Streaming movies may require a Wi-Fi connection because 3G cellular Internet access may not provide enough bandwidth for smooth video delivery.

Not all tablets do everything equally well. When you're looking, keep in mind the main uses you intend to make of a tablet, and concentrate on devices that excel at those.



Computer Tablets

On-The-Go Computing Without A Laptop

Whether you need to edit a presentation on the go or update your blog during a lunch break, computer tablets will help you get the job done. A computer tablet combines notebook-like specifications with compact size, so you can do computing-oriented tasks using apps to get the job done quickly and easily.

A Flexible, All-In-One Device

- A computer tablet is flexible enough to be used in a mechanic shop, a hospital emergency room, a corporate boardroom, or a kindergarten classroom.
- These devices are multifunctional and can be used (to some extent) as a net-book, eReader, MP3 player, and more—all in one device.

Storage & Connectivity

- Computing tablets provide enough capacity to store a variety of files on your device, such as documents and media, rather than on a Web-only application.
- Computer tablets can support various connectivity options. Wi-Fi can be used for accessing hotspots or your home network and 3G (with a data provider subscription) will let you connect to the Internet wherever service is available.

Productivity

- Computer tablets with a preinstalled OS give you a platform to create documents, update spreadsheets, and store media like you would on a laptop. You can also download apps that can help you stay productive.
- Check email, blogs, news, and more with Web access. Models with a keyboard, such as the Lenovo IdeaPad Netbook Tablet (\$529.99; www.lenovo.com), make typing quick and easy.

Standout Features

- More portable than a laptop

- Supports an OS and app downloads

- Includes storage space for media and documents

- Available in slate and convertible styles



Media Tablets

Expand Your Multimedia Experience

The tablet interface has subtly revolutionized media consumption because it's constantly connected and multimedia-friendly. A touchscreen media tablet will help you keep games, ebooks, movies, music, and more accessible wherever you are. Additionally, they don't require a service contract and are generally less expensive than computer tablets.

Watch Movies & TV Shows

- These devices typically let you watch 720p HD content on a widescreen.
- You can use built-in Web TV channels or download movies and TV shows to watch. While Web channels are available on some tablets, other tablets feature preinstalled video apps.

Download & Access Apps

- Media tablets typically feature some preinstalled apps, such as a contacts list, eReader, Web browser, calendar, and notepad.
- You can also download additional apps via an online store, depending on the device. Some extra apps include puzzles, games, tip calculators, and more.

Browse The Web

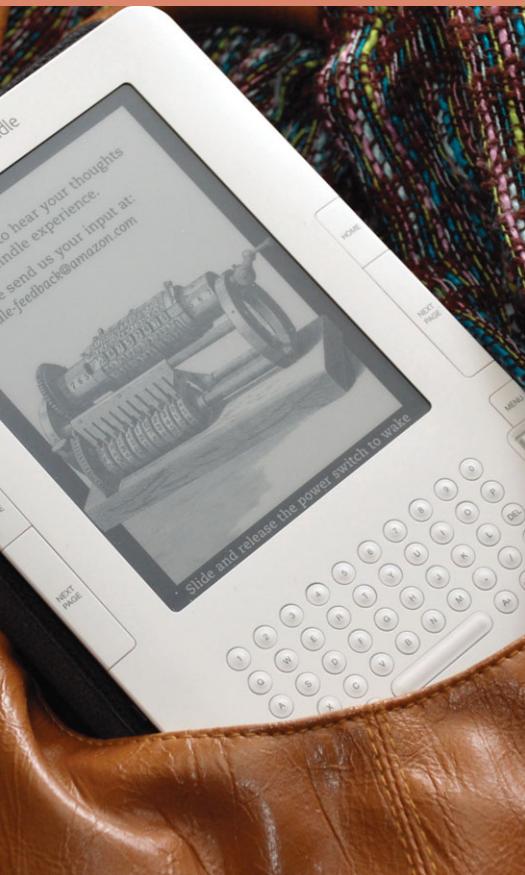
- Media tablets give you full-color and fullscreen browsing, so you can clearly see online content without having to zoom and scroll.
- You can connect to Wi-Fi and/or 3G to access your favorite Web-based content, such as social networking sites or email.

View Photos & Listen To Music

- Most media tablets can store and display photos, letting you share them with friends over dinner. You can also listen to music, whether it's stored on the device or accessed through Web radio.
- If the built-in storage isn't enough for your media collection, you can save files on microSD or SD cards.

Standout Features

- Great for full-screen Web browsing
- Watch TV shows or movies
- Apps make it possible to enjoy a broad range of content
- Play, share, and store music and photos



eReader Tablets

A New World Of Books & Media

Of the many types of tablets available, dedicated eReaders are among the most popular. While they don't offer all of the features or storage space of the general-use computer tablets, they're perfect for folks who mainly want to download and read books, newspapers, and magazines—but would also enjoy a few extra media-related features such as the ability to play music, browse the Internet, or display photos.

Digital Browsing

- Part of the fun of shopping for books is browsing: looking at whatever strikes your fancy and sometimes encountering books or authors you'd never heard of. With an eReader tablet, you can still browse—you just do it digitally. An eReader lets you access (via 3G cellular, Wi-Fi, or both) one or more online bookstores, search for specific authors or titles, check out different genres, and even download sample chapters.

Better Battery Life, Better Reading Experience

- Because of the dedicated, specialized display, reading on an eReader is usually more comfortable and easier on the eyes than reading on another type of tablet. And due to a low energy-consumption display and the fact that there are fewer additional features to support, an eReader's battery life is typically much longer than that of a multipurpose tablet.

Interact With Books

- An eReader gives you an amazing amount of control over (and interaction with) your digital book, magazine, or newspaper. Most let you search text, highlight sections, make notes, access a digital dictionary, change fonts and screen colors, and more. This makes reading on an eReader an enjoyable, powerful experience.

Other Media

- Most eReaders can store music and photos, play MP3s or other files, and display images individually or as a slideshow. The process of moving content (photos, documents, music, etc.) from your computer to an eReader is called "sideloading," and most eReaders are compatible with a variety of sideloaded files.

Standout Features

- Most eReader displays are easy to read, even in bright locations
- Allow searching, highlighting, and note-taking
- Provide tools for browsing online bookstores and downloading purchases
- Most can play music and display photos



Mobile Tablets

A Smaller Size For Travel Convience

Mobile tablets are bigger than a smartphone, but smaller than a computer tablet or netbook—typically they feature screens of 7 inches or smaller. Why would you need the in-between size? You get the goodies that traditionally come with smartphones, such as Web browsing, email, music, and GPS, on a device with a screen large enough for you to comfortably work on for hours at a time. And compared to a computer tablet, the smaller size makes it ideal for people, such as travelers, who need a device they can always carry with them.

Get Things Done

- Similar to a smartphone, mobile tablets run a mobile OS that allows you to install applications from its app store. This way, you can customize the tablet to suit what you want to do.
- It's easier to read text when browsing the Web or reading email on a mobile tablet than a smartphone, because mobile tablets offer around twice the screen real estate.
- The touchscreen interface is intuitive to operate, which helps you quickly access tablet settings and run applications.

A Go-Go Gadget

- All models are compatible with Wi-Fi connectivity, and some mobile tablets feature embedded 3G mobile broadband, so you can connect to the Internet anywhere your data service plan provider offers it.
- Web access lets you stream music and videos for entertainment on the road, or you can store your favorites on the small amount of built-in memory. Access to social networking sites and downloadable games also provide venues for entertainment.
- Some feature a built-in Web cam for video chatting.

Standout Features

- Built-in connectivity to access the Internet and other content on the go

- Smaller than a computer tablet, bigger than a smartphone for a lightweight device that's both easy and comfortable to use and carry

- Play music, video, and photos on a very portable device

...the smaller size makes it ideal for people, such as travelers, who need a device they can always carry with them.

BY NATHAN LAKE



Tablet Networking

How To Get Internet Access

Tablet users are a diverse lot, using their devices to read ebooks, watch movies, stay current with friends, get map directions, and do other varied tasks. One trait they share, however, is the need to connect their Internet-compatible tablets. The following are options for doing so.

Plan Accordingly

Integrated Wi-Fi connectivity is generally a norm among tablets, but some models also add support for mobile broadband (3G or 4G), a high-speed Internet connection available through a cell phone carrier wherever coverage is available. Coverage plans come in contract (similar to a multiyear smartphone plan) and non-contract options. The latter is a prepaid way to get, say, 30 days of mobile broadband access for \$40 with a 2.5GB data limit. While some tablets integrate mobile broadband connectivity, others require using an add-on device to gain support.

How To Connect

Whether using a tablet in the home or on the go, there are several options to acquire a Wi-Fi or mobile broadband signal.

- **Wi-Fi network.** A standard Wi-Fi home network consists of a wireless router, PC, and cable or DSL modem working together to broadcast radio signal frequencies that the tablet's Wi-Fi adapter picks up to acquire an Internet connection.
- **Wi-Fi hotspot.** A Wi-Fi hotspot generally refers to a public area, such as hotel, library, or airport, in which free or paid Wi-Fi access is available. One limitation of Wi-Fi is the range (typically up to 300 feet from the Wi-Fi access point) that a tablet must remain within to maintain connectivity.
- **Mobile hotspot.** This device uses a carrier's 3G/4G network coverage area to provide mobile broadband Internet connectivity to a tablet but also broadcasts a Wi-Fi signal (802.11b/g) to up to five Wi-Fi-supported devices, allowing multiple users to use the hotspot simultaneously.
- **Mobile broadband.** Certain tablets have built-in 3G/4G capabilities to get Web access wherever a carrier provides coverage, while others require a USB modem plugged in.

Although some tablets integrate mobile broadband connectivity, others require using an add-on device to gain support.



Tablet Accessories

Get The Most Out Of Your Tablet

Tablets are some of the most convenient devices on the tech market, and there are plenty of accessories that can enhance and protect your device when you're on the go.

Chargers

You can use a vehicle charger to replenish battery power when you're driving from one meeting to another. If you like to charge multiple devices simultaneously, look for a tablet charger with more than one USB port or adapter.

HDMI Cables

Assuming your tablet has a Mini HDMI port, you can use a Mini HDMI-to-HDMI cable to connect to an HDTV with a standard HDMI input. This lets you share high-definition photos and videos on a larger display. Other tablets require a dock or cradle to support an HDMI connection.

Multimedia Docks

A dock can make it easier for you to view videos and listen to audio. Some docks include an audio connection with built-in speakers that produce full-range sound, so you can easily play background music at a dinner party.

Cases

Cases can protect your tablet and prevent it from getting scratched or dinged. Cases are available in a broad range of styles and might also provide a better grip, convert into a stand for viewing multimedia, or be able to store other tablet accessories.

Keyboards

If you prefer to type on a mechanical keyboard rather than a tablet's virtual keyboard, you can buy a wireless keyboard and connect it to your tablet via Bluetooth technology.

Screen Protectors

It's wise to cover a tablet's delicate screen, especially if it's a touchscreen, with a screen protector so it doesn't get scratched or damaged. Typically constructed from clear plastic, a screen protector puts a durable barrier between the tablet's interface and oily fingers or spilled drinks.

Tablet Protection Services

You can protect your tablet by purchasing a warranty that's available in one- to three-year increments or as a month-by-month subscription. This contract ensures that you'll be able to take advantage of CE retailer repair services and diagnostic tests. Tech professionals will be able to identify a problem and provide the hands-on help to fix the issue.

It's wise to cover a tablet's delicate screen, especially if it's a touchscreen ...

HOW TO BUY

A Web-Connected GPS

Stay Connected On The Road



Many have discovered the great benefits of using a GPS device for navigating streets, the water, and even hiking trails, but with a Web-connected GPS device, you get much more. By connecting to the Internet even when out and about, Web-connected GPS users can get the most immediate updates and a host of extra features that will make any trek safer and more enjoyable.

On the road. While GPS devices use satellites to triangulate their position, Web-connected GPS devices also rely on 3G cellular networks to stay online, just as smartphones and other 3G-enabled devices do. Bear in mind that your

GPS device doesn't use a Web browser. Instead, the connection to the Internet gives you access to real-time updates and enhances the GPS data and services you already rely on.

... your GPS device doesn't use a Web browser.

Stay current.

Your Web-connected GPS keeps your travel info up-to-the-minute, with real-time map and traffic updates, local gas prices, and more. Some devices even work hand in hand with Google Maps, which makes it more convenient to find where you want to go. After setting up an email address for your GPS unit, maps or directions that you or friends find on a computer with Google Maps can be sent directly to your GPS.

... keeps your travel info up-to-the-minute ...

Local search features.

Some Web-connected GPS devices have Google Local Search, which allows you to find area lodging, Wi-Fi hotspots, eateries, ATMs, and other local businesses and addresses. You can check out reviews and nab contact info, as well.

... check out reviews and nab contact info ...

What you need. In addition to the Web-connected GPS device itself, you'll need to subscribe to a service

plan to access mobile phone companies' 3G networks. The device's built-in 3G cellular modem will take care of the rest.

... you'll need to subscribe to a service plan ...

MP3 Player Audio Systems

Dock & Play Anywhere You Like

If you think the selection of MP3 players has multiplied rapidly, you'll want to know about the profusion of audio systems that will enhance your MP3 player listening experience. By adding an MP3 player dock unit, you're no longer confined to the in-ear sounds coming from your earbuds or headphones.



Far Beyond The Boom Box

- MP3 player audio systems come in all shapes, sizes, and colors (mostly silver and black)
- Most systems are portable enough to move from one location to another
- Some are as small as 6 inches wide, but others are large enough to be an entertainment centerpiece
- Unique designs are plentiful: cube shaped, circular platform, and separate left and right speaker setups are some of the many that exist

Make Your MP3 Player Versatile

- While numerous systems support old generations of MP3 players, there are docks that are best suited for the latest players with mobile phone capabilities and apps
- Players can pause songs when they receive an incoming phone call
- Clock radios are incorporated into many alarm-based models, letting you wake up to your favorite tunes every day

Features For Rockin' Out

- Remote controls make it easy to access your MP3 player's functions to pause, skip, and play tracks or switch to a radio function from across a room
- If you want to know song names or artists, select models with built-in LED backlighting can deliver this information
- Keep an eye out for features such as additional subwoofers and motion-activated snooze to better match an MP3 player dock to your daily activities

Find Your Match

- When deciding which dock system is best for your needs, make sure to check if the brand is compatible with your MP3 playing device
- If you use your MP3 player so much that its battery life is a valuable commodity, find an MP3 player dock that can simultaneously play all the music you love while topping off your player's battery

ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

MP3 Player Direct Connect Kits

Q What is an MP3 player direct connect kit?

A A direct connect kit lets you use your factory-installed car stereo with an MP3 player or other audio devices for car speaker audio playback.

Q What's the difference between a direct connect kit and an FM transmitter?

A A direct connect kit uses a wired connection to transmit audio from your MP3 player to your car audio system, and its audio sounds crisp and clear. Conversely, an FM transmitter uses unoccupied FM radio frequencies, which are susceptible to signal interference and can create poor audio quality.

Q How is a direct connect kit set up in a car?

A Unlike an FM transmitter, the components of a direct connect kit are hidden from view. A wire harness plugs into the back of your stereo deck and connects to a peripheral device that accepts audio source connections. Using an auxiliary cable, which is included in the kit, your audio device can be hooked up to the system.

Q Can I install a direct connect kit without professional assistance?

A Unless you know exactly what you're doing, we recommend you let a professional from your local CE retailer install the kit for you. The process involves connecting wires and dismantling your car dash to reach internal areas, and if it's not done correctly, you can cause damage.

Q Is any type of direct connect kit compatible with any car make and model?

A No, certain direct connect kits are designed for particular vehicle makes and models. Make sure you check a direct connect kit's compatibility before making a purchase or consult an associate at a local CE retailer to determine which kit fits your needs.

Q With a direct connect kit, how will I be able to control my audio device's playback?

A A direct connect kit gives you flexibility in how you control your audio playback. You can either use your factory-installed system's controls to listen to, control, and view playlists or you can use your MP3 player's functions.

Q Will my MP3 player charge while it's connected to a direct connect kit?

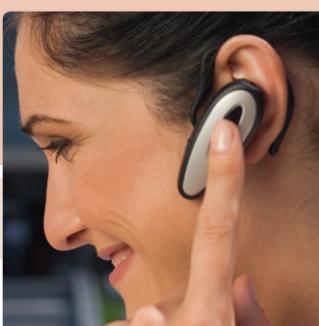
A Yes, your MP3 player will charge when it's connected to your car stereo via the direct connect kit.

Q Are there direct connect kits that support Bluetooth connectivity?

A No. Currently, there are only direct connect kits that utilize wire and cable connections.

Q Can I control HD Radio frequencies using a direct connect kit?

A Yes. By connecting an HD Radio transmitter to the kit's audio source peripheral, you can browse HD Radio channels using your factory-installed stereo deck.



MP3 Player Glossary

Who doesn't want an MP3 player? It can help you relax, motivate you, and ensure you always have a song to match your mood. When you head to your local CE retailer to snag one, make sure you have this glossary so you can choose the perfect model.

AAC—Short for Advanced Audio Codec, this format is a competitor of the more common MP3 file format. It is the default format used by Apple.

Bluetooth—A wireless technology, supported by some MP3 players, that connects devices with short-range radio frequencies.

capacity—How much data a player can hold. This is typically expressed in gigabytes or megabytes. Generally speaking, 1GB will hold about 250 songs.

download—In terms of digital music, downloading is when you retrieve a song from an Internet site or another network connection and save it to your computer or portable music player. You can download songs from music Web sites such as iTunes, Napster, or Rhapsody.

DRM (digital rights management)—DRM is a security mechanism for digital media, associated with copyright. A common DRM scheme for digital music involves getting a licensed file to authorize playback of a free or purchased song.

earbuds—Small, circular devices you put into your ears so you can listen to music on your player. These serve the same function as headphones. Many music players include their own earbuds, but

you can purchase a separate pair that is more comfortable or of better quality.

flash memory—Solid-state memory with no moving parts that is lightweight and small. In terms of digital music players, a flash-based player is lighter and smaller than a hard drive-based player, and also, it won't skip. Thus, flash-based players are popular for use during exercise. However, the capacity of a flash-based player isn't as large as a hard drive-based player.

FM tuner—If your music player has a built-in FM tuner, you will be able to listen to music that is broadcast from local radio stations.

hard drive—Storage that consists of rigid platters inside a fixed casing. In terms of digital music players, a hard drive-based player is larger and heavier than a flash-based player. Because of the moving parts (the platters), hard drive-based players are also prone to skipping. However, their capacities are much larger than those of flash-based players.

music management program—A program, such as iTunes or Napster, that loads onto your computer and lets you play, organize, download, and purchase media, such as music and videos, for your player or PC.



MP3—Perhaps the most popular digital audio encoding format. It compresses audio to about one-twelfth the original size while still providing excellent sound. In general, a 1MB MP3 file will last about one minute.

playlist—A queue of songs a user creates to play on a computer, burn to a CD, or transfer to an MP3 player. The playlist will only include directions to the location of the songs, not the actual songs themselves.

podcast—A downloadable episode that is similar to a radio program. A user can subscribe to a podcast for updated episodes, or she can download podcasts one at a time.

screen—The display on the front of a portable music player. A player's screen can either display in color or black and white.

WMA—Windows Media Audio is a digital audio format created by Microsoft.

widescreen—A screen that has a 16:9 aspect ratio.

Which MP3 Player Is Best For You?

iPods are cool, sure, but you have other choices when it comes to listening to your tunes. This chart compares the most important—and coolest—features from select MP3 players.

		Memory type	Capacity	Video capabilities	FM tuner	Colors	Battery life
What It Means		Hard drive (moving parts, more capacity) or flash (no moving parts)	How much memory the player has**	Some MP3 players can play video	Some MP3 players let you listen to radio stations	Several players offer a variety of color choices	How long the battery will last when playing music
	SanDisk Sansa Clip+ MSRP: \$39.99*; \$49.99* SKU 9448449	Flash	2GB; 4GB	No	Yes	Black, purple, blue	15 hours
	Apple iPod shuffle MSRP: \$49* SKU 9845475	Flash	2GB	No	No	Orange, silver, pink, green, blue	15 hours
	Sony W Series Walkman MSRP: \$59.99* SKU 9964382	Flash	2GB	No	No	Black	11 hours
	SanDisk Sansa Fuze+ MSRP: \$89.99* SKU 1116229	Flash	8GB	Yes	Yes	Blue, purple, black, white	24 hours
	Sony S Series Walkman MSRP: \$99.99*; \$119.99* SKU 9443827	Flash	8GB; 16GB	Yes	Yes	Black, violet, red	42 hours
	Apple iPod nano MSRP: \$149*; \$179* SKU 1161925	Flash	8GB; 16GB	No	Yes	Pink, orange, green, blue, silver, graphite	24 hours
	Microsoft Zune HD MSRP: \$179.99*; \$229.99* SKU 9449581	Flash	16GB; 32GB	Yes	Yes	Black, platinum silver	33 hours
	Apple iPod touch MSRP: \$229*; \$299*; \$399* SKU 9225377	Flash	8GB; 32GB; 64GB	Yes	No	Black	40 hours

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

**One gigabyte of memory will hold approximately 250 songs. Actual capacity will vary depending on song length and format.

Which GPS Device Is Right For You?

One of the hottest CE devices around right now is a GPS, and what a useful device it is, too. Here, we compare some models available on today's market. All of these units come with maps already loaded, and you can purchase additional maps, as well.

		Screen size; Dimensions	Text-to-speech; Traffic receiver	Preloaded maps	WAAS	Bluetooth; MP3 playback	Included charging adapters
What It Means		The diagonal measurement of the screen; Height x width x depth	Unit calls out specific street names; Unit receives traffic updates and re-routes accordingly	The regional maps that come included with the GPS unit	A satellite and ground station system that gives exceptional GPS accuracy	Some units communicate wirelessly with other Bluetooth devices or play MP3s	AC adapters plug into the wall; DC adapters plug into your car's cigarette lighter
	Insignia NS-NAV01 MSRP: \$99.99* SKU 9351603	4.3 inches; 3.1x4.7x0.6 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S.	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	Insignia NS-NAV02R MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 9953155	4.3 inches; 3.3x4.9x0.8 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S.	No	No; No	DC adapter
	Magellan RoadMate 1424 MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 9894383	4.3 inches; 3.3x5.0x0.6 inches	Yes; Yes (with optional traffic receiver)	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	TomTom XXL 540T MSRP: \$179.95* SKU 1054468	5 inches; 3.1x4.6x1 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and Mexico	No	No; No	DC adapter
	Magellan RoadMate 3045-LM MSRP: \$219.99* SKU 9895142	4.7 inches; 3.4x5.4x0.6 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	TomTom XXL 550TM MSRP: \$259.95* SKU 1334083	5 inches; 3.8x4.7x0.9 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and Mexico	No	No; No	DC adapter
	TomTom GO 2505TM MSRP: \$319.95* SKU 1582074	5 inches; 3.5x5.6x0.7 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and Mexico	No	Yes; No	DC adapter
	Garmin nüvi 3790LMT MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 1620388	4.3 inches; 2.9x4.8x0.4 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and Mexico	No	Yes; No	DC adapter

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services

**GPS CHARGERS**

- Make sure your travel companion always has a full battery
- If you do run out of battery, charge your GPS with an adapter; these can plug into a wall, PC, or car's DC outlet

**MP3 PLAYER CASES**

- Protect your MP3 player from bumps and scratches
- Quickly access your player's functions with a clip
- Keep your player out of your way with an armband

**GPS MOUNTS**

- Mounts can be placed on a car dash or stuck to a windshield to be within reach

**MP3 PLAYER EARPHONES**

- Match earphones to your needs: If you don't want anything bulky, opt for earbuds that fit inside your ear; to hear every musical detail, try headphones that cover the ear completely
- Listen to your music without the interference of background noise with earphones that offer a noise-canceling feature

**CELL PHONE CHARGERS & BATTERIES**

- Keep your phone charged no matter where you are; adapters for your cell phone let you use solar power, your car's DC outlet, wall power, or your computer to charge your phone
- Be prepared for emergencies with extra cell phone batteries

**MP3 PLAYER DOCKS & SPEAKERS**

- Portable speakers let you play music for a group; some include radios and can also play CDs
- With a portable dock, you can recharge your player's battery as you listen to music
- Play your music through car speakers using an FM transmitter

**CELL PHONE HEADSETS**

- Keep your hands free while still being able to use your phone
- Link compatible cell phones to a Bluetooth headset to make or take calls without a tangled mess of cables
- Use a headset that offers noise-canceling capabilities to ensure you don't miss any of your conversation

**CELL PHONE CASES**

- Safeguard your phone from wear and tear with a case
- Universal cases fit most sizes of cell phones; some of these will include clips and wrist straps for portability and accessibility
- Fitted cases specifically fit your phone's model type; these can be hard acrylic casings, rubber sleeves, or leather pouches
- Avoid getting scratches and fingerprints on your phone's screen with stick-on or hard, clear screen protectors

**MOBILE SERVICES**

Whether your wireless device is brand-new or nearing the end of its life span, your local CE retailer offers services to help you take care of all of its needs.

- Protection plans for GPSes, MP3 players, and cell phones
- Phone and battery recycling
- GPS setup and deck installation
- MP3 vehicle integration
- MP3 player setup and training
- Cell phone repair services and loaner phones

Frigidaire Gallery® & Professional® French Door Refrigerators

Style & Convenience

Refrigerators have come a long, long way since our parents' day. If you're looking for elegance, time-saving features, energy efficiency, and the ultimate in organization and storage, consider these standout models from Frigidaire (www.frigidaire.com): the Frigidaire Professional® and Frigidaire Gallery® French Door Refrigerators.

SpaceWise® Organization



Best-In-Class Ice & Water Filtration



Real Stainless Steel



Store-More™ Full Width Cool Zone™ Drawer



Keep Everything Organized

Nothing's worse than a refrigerator that turns into a messy jumble of hard-to-find food items tucked into nooks and crannies and shoved behind each other. Frigidaire Professional® and Frigidaire Gallery® French Door Refrigerators feature the innovative **SpaceWise® Organization System** to help you avoid that mess: Your refrigerator stays neat and orderly, so food is easy to find when you need it.

Frigidaire's flexible and spacious interior promotes ease of use and cleaning while **Effortless™ Glide Drawers** and see-through bins and shelves make even the smallest condiment easy to find. The Professional® and Gallery® French Door Refrigerators also feature a **Store-More™ Full Width Cool Zone™ Drawer**, which provides enough space to easily store anything from sheet cakes to snacks and juice boxes.

Keep Everything Clean & Neat

It's not enough for your refrigerator to be organized—it also needs to stay clean. Frigidaire's **SpillSafe® Glass Shelves** slide out for easy access and are designed to keep spills contained, making cleanup a breeze. The exterior is not only stylish, it's also easy to clean: Frigidaire Professional® and Frigidaire Gallery® French Door Refrigerators are available in real stainless steel that features a protective coating to reduce fingerprints and smudges.

Frigidaire French Door Refrigerators also feature a **PureSource Ultra® Water Filtration** system, so you get cleaner, fresher ice and water for your family, while **PureAir Ultra® Air Filters** keep the air in your refrigerator fresh. And all Frigidaire French Door Refrigerators are Energy Star-qualified, so you know they efficiently use energy to help lower your utility bill.

Choose The Right Frigidaire Refrigerator

Frigidaire offers a variety of stylish and spacious refrigerators, and this chart will help you choose the appliance that best fits your needs and budget. The Frigidaire®, Frigidaire Gallery®, and Frigidaire Professional® lines featured here are all energy-efficient, and keeping your refrigerator organized is a breeze with a clear dairy bin, two clear crisper drawers, and full-width upper and lower freezer drawers. Take a look at the differences in these appliances below.

FRIGIDAIRE

Product Name	FGUN2642	FGHN2844 FGUN2844	FPHN2899	FGUB2642	FGHB2844	FGHB2846	FGHB2869
SKU	1252201 (white) 1252229 (black) 1252104 (stainless)	9956647 (white) SKU N/A (black) 9957106 (stainless)	9960146 (stainless)	1252195 (white) SKU N/A (black) 9957391 (stainless)	9956489 (white) 9956756 (black) SKU N/A (stainless)	SKU N/A (white) SKU N/A (black) 9956783 (stainless)	9956856 (white) 9957382 (black) 9956874 (stainless)
Brand	Frigidaire®	Frigidaire Gallery®	Frigidaire Professional®	Frigidaire Gallery®	Frigidaire Gallery®	Frigidaire Gallery®	Frigidaire Gallery®
MSRP*	\$1,599 (mono) \$1,699 (stainless)	\$1,699 (mono) \$1,799 (stainless)	\$2,099 (stainless)	\$2,099 (mono) \$2,199 (stainless)	\$1,999 (mono) \$2,099 (stainless)	\$2,299 (mono) \$2,399 (stainless)	\$2,399 (mono) \$2,499 (stainless)
Energy Star	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Efficiency	30%	20%	20%	30%	20%	20%	20%
Capacity	26 cubic feet	28 cubic feet	28 cubic feet	26 cubic feet	28 cubic feet	28 cubic feet	28 cubic feet
Shelves	3 1/2-Width Sliding Spill Safe	4 1/2-Width Sliding Spill Safe	4 1/2-Width Sliding Spill Safe	3 1/2-Width Sliding Spill Safe	3 1/2-Width Sliding Spill Safe	3 1/2-Width Sliding Spill Safe	3 1/2-Width Sliding Spill Safe
2-Gallon Storage Bins	4 Bin	4 Adjustable Bin	4 Adjustable Bin	2 Bin	2 Bin	2 Bin	2 Bin
Full Width Pantry Drawer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (Cool Drawer™)
Temp, Ajar & Power Failure Alarms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Digital Temp Display	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dispenser/Dispenser Lock				✓	✓	✓ (LCD Control)	✓ (LCD Control w/Stainless Steel Accents)
Number Of Express Select Buttons	5	5	5	8	8	8	8
Number Of Humidity Controls	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Can Dispenser				✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Filter	PureSource3™	PureSource Ultra™	PureSource Ultra™	PureSource3™	PureSource3™	PureSource3™	PureSource3™
Air Filter							✓ (PureAir™)
Wine Rack							✓
Lighting	Dual Level Designer Lighting	Dual Level Designer Lighting	Dual Level Designer Lighting	Dual Level Designer Lighting	Dual Level Designer Lighting	Dual Level Designer Lighting	Dual Level Designer LED Lighting

* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

HOW TO BUY

A Microwave

Make Your Meals Fast & Family-Friendly



A quality microwave will let you conveniently heat, reheat, defrost, and prepare food with the press of a few buttons. There are plenty of reasons to upgrade to a new microwave, so keep reading so you can be prepared before you make a purchase.

Size it up. There are three types of microwaves: compact, midsize, and full-size. Compact models, which are great for small apartments and dorm rooms, have a capacity of 0.9 cubic feet or less. Midsize microwaves range in size from 0.9 to 1.5 cubic feet on average. You can expect most full-size models to have a capacity of at least 1.5 cubic feet or more. If you've recently expanded your counter space, you could consider adding a full-size model. A midsize microwave is suitable for most galley kitchens.

There are three types of microwaves . . .

Over-the-range. Because they're installed flush with upper kitchen cabinets and over a stovetop, an over-the-range microwave frees up counter space. When you're sautéing, steaming, or grilling on your stove, the microwave's built-in ventilation system can disperse rising steam or smoke and eliminate odors. Certain models also feature a charcoal vent filter that can eradicate air pollutants.

... built-in ventilation system can disperse rising steam or smoke and eliminate odors.

Power particulars. A microwave's power wattage will tell you if you have enough power to consistently boil and defrost. Find a model with at least 1,100 watts of power, because a lower wattage option may not cook as quickly or evenly as a high wattage model. Multiple power levels (average microwaves include up to 10) let you adjust the amount of power a microwave uses based on what you're heating up.

Find a model with at least 1,100 watts of power . . .

Convenience features. Sensor-based cooking options use humidity detection to ensure food isn't overcooked or undercooked. A one-touch popcorn button makes it easy to pop a single package of popcorn. You can use a quick minute function to warm a cup of coffee or melt a stick of butter without entering time on a number keypad. Some microwaves also feature a multilingual menu with instructions in English, French, and Spanish.

A one-touch popcorn button makes it easy . . .

BY JOANNA CLAY

ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

Refrigerators

Q What are the primary benefits of a top-freezer refrigerator?

A Generally, top-freezer models are the most affordable refrigerator style. Because the freezer section is at or above eye level, it's ideal for people who need regular access to frozen items. The wide shelves offer you the flexibility to store long, wide refrigerator contents, such as a pizza box or party tray.

Q What are the advantages of a bottom-freezer refrigerator?

A Because the freezer is at the bottom, the fridge section is at eye level, meaning you won't need to bend down as far to retrieve frequently needed items on low shelves. Bottom-freezer models are also wide enough to store large items.

Q How do bottom-freezer refrigerators with French doors differ from models with a traditional swinging door?

A Because French doors are split in two for the fridge section, the doors are less obtrusive when open than a single swinging door, which is ideal for cramped kitchens. And you'll still benefit from the bottom freezer's wide-shelf design, unlike a side-by-side refrigerator.

Q What are the benefits of a side-by-side refrigerator?

A Side-by-side refrigerators are ideal for kitchens with tight spaces where you're most concerned about door clearance. Because one side of the refrigerator is the freezer and the other is the fridge, the doors take up less space when open than a single swinging door or freezer drawer.

Q What types of food are temperature-controlled drawers ideal for?

A Temperature-controlled drawers are best for items that need to be kept at temperatures lower than the entire refrigerator's temperature, such as meat or fish, or higher, such as vegetables. Just set the temperature level to match the food you put in there. Some refrigerators also offer humidity-controlled drawers.

Q Why is energy efficiency important for a refrigerator?

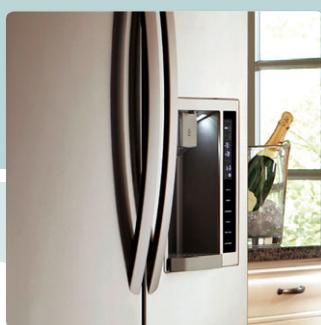
A A refrigerator runs constantly, so it tends to be one of the most energy-consuming appliances in the house. Thus, a model that is more energy-efficient can be more cost-effective. Additionally, most refrigerators last around 15 years, so its energy use will impact your electricity bill for years to come.

Q How does a door alarm help you save energy?

A If the fridge or freezer door is left open, the alarm will go off after a given period of time to indicate that you need to shut the door. Thus, the feature helps reduce the amount of cold air escaping the refrigerator, which will reduce the amount of energy used by the fridge.

Q What is a compact refrigerator?

A These are refrigerators with a smaller capacity that are better-suited to small spaces, such as dorm rooms and office areas, than full-sized models. Most offer a small freezer shelf for frozen goods.



NOTEWORTHY Accessories & Services



VACUUM BELTS, BAGS & FILTERS

- Replace vacuum belts every year for optimum performance
- Trap airborne pollutants, such as dust particles and debris, with micro allergen or HEPA filter vacuum bags and filters



GAS FLEX LINES

- **Ranges and laundry dryers.** Gas lines aren't included with these appliances, so you'll need to pick one up
- With an auto shutoff feature, you can protect your home from gas leaks
- Professional installers require a new gas line



LAUNDRY PEDESTALS

- Raise your front-loading washer and dryer to an easy-to-access and more ergonomic height
- Store laundry supplies in pedestals that double as drawers



HIGH-EFFICIENCY LAUNDRY DETERGENT

- Wash clothes better with a detergent that's formulated to work with a high-efficiency washer
- HE detergent prevents damage to your washer, such as leaking, vibration, and poor spinning



UPHOLSTERY & FLOOR CLEANING AGENTS

- Make cleaning easy with products made for particular surfaces, such as multifloor, wood floors, carpet, and upholstery
- Some agents can be used with a variety of products, but others are for use only with specific products

After you've selected an appliance, you need to make sure you have all of the necessary extras, such as cords or hoses for installation. It's also good to consider if you want a professional to deliver and install your unit. By adding the accessories below, you can ensure your appliance's performance remains top-notch.



REFRIGERATOR BULBS & FILTERS

- Keep a spare bulb on hand to replace burnt-out interior lights
- Ensure your dispensed water and ice always taste fresh with extra water filters



ELECTRICAL CORDS

Power cords aren't included with these appliances. Here's what you should know:

- **Washers and dryers.** All new models use 4-prong cords, but models made before 1984 require a 3-prong cord replacement.
- **Dishwashers.** Purchase a three-prong cord individually or in a kit that includes a water line.
- **Ranges.** Check your home's electrical outlet to get either a 3-prong or 4-prong cord.



WATER LINES

- **Refrigerators.** Some models include plastic water lines, which are susceptible to twisting or leaks. A better alternative is a line made of metal, such as copper or stainless steel.
- **Washing machines.** Don't settle for the rubber hose that comes with your machine, as it can burst. Instead, opt for a durable stainless steel hose that will last longer.
- **Dishwashers.** Reusing an old water line can lead to water damage. Instead, get a dishwasher kit that includes a water line and power cord for the best performance.



APPLIANCES SERVICES

Whether you're buying a new unit or need to tune up your existing one, CE retailers offer professional services like the ones below to help get your appliance up and running in no time.

- Delivery & Installation
- Appliance Recycling
- Appliance Service Plans
- Appliance Repairs

This Month's Blu-ray Disc Releases

127 Hours

Rating: R | MSRP*: \$39.99 | SKU: 1931123

Release Date: 3/1



Tangled

Rating: PG | MSRP*: \$39.99 | SKU: 2068089

Release Date: 3/29



The Tourist

Rating: PG-13 | MSRP*: \$38.96 | SKU: 1953212

Release Date: 3/22



	Date	MSRP*	SKU	Rating
March				
127 Hours	3/1	\$39.99	1931123	R
Adventures of a Teenage Dragonslayer	3/8	\$24.98	18966343	PG
Alien 2: On Earth	3/22	\$29.95	19032585	R
Anastasia	3/22	\$29.99	19028273	G
Apocalypse: World War II	3/29	\$39.98	18994627	Not Rated
Awakenings	3/22	\$17.97	19002557	PG-13
Because of Winn-Dixie	3/22	\$24.99	19028316	PG
Charlotte's Web	3/29	\$26.98	2179032	G
Concert for George	3/22	\$34.98	1896129	PG-13
Dr. Dolittle	3/22	\$24.99	19028158	PG-13
Evangelion 2.0: You Can (Not) Advance	3/29	\$34.98	2128406	TV-14
Fair Game	3/29	\$30.49	19043387	PG-13
Flicka	3/22	\$24.99	19028167	PG
Gangland: The Final Season	3/29	\$49.95	1780287	TV-14
High School Musical	3/29	\$20	19048497	TV-G
High School Musical 2	3/29	\$20	19048512	TV-G
How Do You Know	3/22	\$34.95	2077266	PG-13
L'ennemi Public No. 1	3/29	\$34.95	19028255	R
Living Landscapes: Colors Of Nature	3/8	\$25.98	18991366	Not Rated
Love and Other Drugs	3/1	\$39.99	1931053	R
Made in Dagenham	3/29	\$34.95	19042184	R
Nature: Predators: Moment Of Impact	3/15	\$34.99	19019345	Not Rated
Our Hospitality	3/22	\$34.95	19019414	Not Rated
Random Hearts	3/22	\$17.97	19002548	R
Robots	3/22	\$24.99	2019109	PG
Scary Movie 4	3/22	\$19.97	18976537	PG-13
Shark Bait	3/8	\$24.99	19032063	G
Sharktopus	3/15	\$24.99	1931423	Not Rated
Sherlock Holmes: Complete Collection	3/29	\$129.99	2088159	Not Rated
Soylent Green	3/29	\$19.98	2180474	PG
Spaghetti Western 1: D'Jango & Now They Call Him	3/22	\$14.98	19050465	R
Spaghetti Western 2: Last Gun & Four Dollars Of	3/22	\$14.98	19050474	R
The Spongebob Squarepants Movie	3/29	\$19.99	1974779	PG
Stand by Me	3/22	\$24.98	2077275	R
Star Trek II: The Wrath Of Khan & Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home	3/29	\$24.99	19015994	PG & PG
Star Trek VI: Undiscovered Country & Star Trek VIII: First Contact	3/29	\$24.99	19016001	PG & PG-13
Tangled	3/29	\$39.99	2068089	PG
The Beautiful Truth	3/15	\$29.95	18999686	Not Rated
The Resident	3/29	\$29.97	19002575	R
The Rookie	3/29	\$20	19048391	G
The Sandlot	3/22	\$24.99	2019093	PG
The Switch	3/15	\$39.99	19014085	PG-13
The Times of Harvey Milk	3/22	\$39.95	19002718	Not Rated
The Tourist	3/22	\$38.96	1953212	PG-13
The Wildest Dream	3/15	\$28.99	1780153	PG
Topsy-Turvy	3/29	\$39.95	19005733	R
Treme: Complete First Season	3/29	\$79.98	2095329	Not Rated
Vanquisher	3/22	\$29.98	19005906	R
Walking Dead: Season 1	3/8	\$49.99	1781046	TV-14

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

Handheld Games

Q Is a handheld game the same as a portable gaming console?

A No. Handheld games are self-contained and often come with only one or a handful of different games. They are easy to learn and make great gifts.

Q What are the advantages of a handheld game compared to a portable gaming console?

A Handheld games are less expensive. They also operate for a long time—often months—on a single set of batteries. Handhelds also don't require the purchase of additional peripherals or cartridges to play, although some accept these to extend gameplay options.

Q What types of games can I play using handhelds?

A Handhelds offer a wide variety of game types. Trivia, puzzle games, card games, board games, action games, and more are all available. Plug-and-Play games offer even more variety.

Q What is a Plug-and-Play game?

A These plug directly into a television, which is then used as a display. These can be used at home or for gaming on the go in hotels or RVs.

Q Do I need an electrical outlet to use a Plug-and-Play game?

A Check the packaging to make sure, but generally, no. Most use batteries, making them completely portable. However, they rarely come with their own batteries, so you'll need to check the packaging and get the type you need.

Q How can I be sure my television has the right connection for a Plug-and-Play game?

A Plug-and-Play games use Composite (RCA) video and audio cables, and nearly every television has Composite jacks, so you should be able to use the game with your TV.

Q Is there any way to add more games to a handheld game?

A It depends on the game. Most handheld games are locked down, but some accept cartridges or can download extra games from the Internet.

Q Why do so many handheld games have black-and-white displays?

A The black-and-white screens on handheld games use LCD technology that is inexpensive to manufacture, keeping prices down. Black-and-white LCDs also consume little power, dramatically extending battery life.

Q Do I need to buy batteries along with the handheld?

A Most handhelds that aren't Plug-and-Play games come with batteries preinstalled. Often these are watch-type batteries that are difficult to obtain when you're on the road, so you should buy spares immediately so they're always handy.

Q Are there any handheld games that accommodate multiple players at the same time?

A Most handheld games are for solo players. However, some have built-in multiplayer modes or offer a pass-and-play mode where players take their turn and then pass the device to another player.



ESRB Game Ratings & Descriptions

Find Material That's Appropriate For Your Kids

ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) Ratings

In order for parents to select gaming software appropriate for their children, ESRB (www.esrb.org) ratings are listed on the front and back of most game packages to provide concise and impartial details about a title's content.



Early Childhood.

Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 3 and older. These software titles contain no material that parents would find inappropriate.



Everyone.

Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 6 and older. Games in this category may contain minimal cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and infrequent use of mild language.



Everyone 10+.

Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 10 and older. Games in this category may contain more cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and language as well as minimal suggestive themes.



Teen.

Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 13 and older. Titles in this category may contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, or infrequent use of strong language.



Mature.

Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older. Games in this category may contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content, or strong language.



Adults Only.

Titles with this rating have content that is only suitable for persons 18 years and older. Games in this category may include prolonged scenes of intense violence, graphic sexual content, or nudity.

For additional information, ESRB ratings on the back of game packages include content descriptions and depictions.



GAMING TIPS FOR PARENTS

Aside from checking a game's ESRB rating, there are other ways you can ensure the games your youngsters are playing are age-appropriate.

- Carefully look at everything on a title's packaging, including the game graphics.

- Find game reviews, screen shots, or demos to get a better idea of a game's content.
- If available, use the game's parental controls to restrict inappropriate content.
- Learn about games by talking to other parents and older children who are familiar with or have played certain titles.
- Participate in your children's gaming and discuss their games as much as possible.
- Be aware of nonrated ESRB material a game may contain. "Mods" are program downloads that can alter a game's content, and online games often have live player chats as well as other user-generated content.

Which Game System Is Best For You?

Game consoles and portable devices are no longer limited to gameplay. They can also access the Internet, download media, and play your favorite DVDs or CDs. To help you find a game device that will suit you best, here's a comparison of the most popular selections you can find at your local CE retailer.

What It Means		Hard drive size	Compatible memory cards	Optical drive	Video resolution output	Ports
Console Devices	 Sony PlayStation 3 With PlayStation Move MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 1122275	320GB	PlayStation and PlayStation 2 cards with optional USB memory card adapter	CD, DVD, BD	1,920 x 1,080	1 A/V, 1 Ethernet, 1 HDMI, 1 optical digital audio, 2 USB
	 Nintendo Wii MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 9916446	512MB	SD/Nintendo GameCube Memory Card	Can only play game titles	720 x 480	4 controller, 1 A/V Multi Out, 2 USB
	 Microsoft Xbox 360 4GB Console With Kinect MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 1162439	4GB	USB flash drive	CD, DVD	1,920 x 1,080	1 optical audio out, 1 Ethernet, 1 HDMI, 5 USB, Kinect port
	 Nintendo DSi MSRP: \$149.99* SKU 9249725	256MB	SD	None	Dual 256 x 192	1 headphone, 1 microphone
	 Nintendo DSi XL MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 9760166	256MB	SD	None	Dual 256 x 192	1 headphone, 1 microphone
Portable Devices	 Sony PSPgo MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 9459659	16GB	Memory Stick Micro	None; download to internal and removable memory only	480 x 272	1 USB, 1 headphone
	 Sony PlayStation Portable 3000 MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 9175082	64MB	Memory Stick Duo	UMD (Universal Media Disc)	480 x 272	1 video out/ headset, 1 USB, 1 DC out

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

Online community	Wi-Fi access; Media streaming	Parental controls	Compatible game formats	Included accessories & services	Available accessories	Controllers	Perfect for
Web site membership for downloads, upgrades, and more	Access the Internet without a cable hookup; Send and receive media wirelessly	Helps parents decide what content their kids can or cannot access	Game titles that can be played on the game system	Accessories included with the console	Extras that can help enhance your gameplay	Included controllers; wired/wireless controller compatibility	Who can benefit from the special features the gaming system offers
Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	Yes, 802.11b/g; Yes—Netflix and content from your home network	Options available for games, BDs, DVDs, and Internet access	Sony PlayStation 3 titles and select PlayStation titles	DualShock 3 wireless controller, Move motion controller, Eye Camera, USB cable, PlayStation Network membership, A/V cable	Move Navigation controller, Blu-ray remote, Bluetooth headset, memory card adapter, wireless keypad, cables	Includes 1 DualShock 3 wireless controller; wireless	Someone who wants the value of a full gaming system with a BD player and media streaming
Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection	Yes, 802.11b/g; Yes—Netflix	Options available for games, online features and downloads, and more	Nintendo GameCube and Wii titles	Wii remote and nunchuck, sensor bar, Wii Sports game, console stand, A/V cable, adapter	Wireless Wii remote, wheel, classic (wired) controllers, wireless sensor bar	Includes 1 wireless Wii remote and nunchuck; both (some titles require a wired remote)	Gamers of any age who want a unique wireless gaming experience that requires little gaming knowledge
Xbox LIVE	Yes, 802.11n; Yes—Netflix and content from your home network	Options available for games, Xbox LIVE, console play time, and a Family Settings pass code	Xbox 360 supports backward compatibility of the original Xbox, Xbox 360, and Xbox LIVE Arcade titles	Kinect Sensor, Wireless controller, Kinect Adventures game, A/V cable, free one-month trial to Xbox LIVE Gold	HDMI cable, USB flash drive, Xbox LIVE headset, Play & Charge Kit	Includes 1 wireless controller; wireless	Those who want an Xbox console with a Kinect Sensor to play games only with body movement, built-in wireless capabilities, and more
Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection	Yes; Yes	Options available for Nintendo DSi content	Nintendo DSi and Nintendo DS titles	AC adapter, 2 styli	Audio headset, battery power pack, screen protectors, carrying cases, styli	N/A	Users who want a handheld gaming system that lets them take, personalize, and share photos
Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection	Yes; Yes	Options available for DSi software, DSi Browser, DSi Shop, and more	N/A	Rechargeable battery, AC adapter, stylus, and 4 preinstalled titles	Cases, adapters, headphones, full-sized stylus	N/A	Those who want a handheld gaming system better-suited for social gaming with a large screen
Yes, PlayStation Network	Yes, 802.11b; Yes	Included	Available for download from PlayStation store	AC adapter, USB cable	Protective screen film, cradle, headphones, memory cards, cases	N/A	Those who need a bigger screen for their gaming, Internet, and media entertainment
Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	Yes, 802.11b; No	Options available for UMDs, Internet, and video downloads	PlayStation Portable titles	AC adapter, battery pack	Battery charger, travel case, memory cards, A/V cable, AC adapter, car adapter	N/A	Those who want to enjoy gaming as well as movies, photos, and music when they're on the go

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services



RACING WHEELS

- A gaming steering wheel puts you in the driver's seat of a virtual race
- A comfortable, accurate wheel will give you more control with turns, braking, and acceleration
- Be sure to purchase a racing wheel that's compatible with your specific game console



GAMING KEYBOARD

- Adding a keyboard can help game efficiency—type in text codes and chat with other players quickly
- Look for a model with a touchpad so you can easily scroll around the game display
- Models that offer hotkeys will enable you to quickly perform tasks, such as gameplay actions



USB DEVICES

- A USB media hub will let you connect other USB devices (including MP3 players and portable game devices) to your game console
- Use a USB rechargeable battery pack to charge the Li-Ion battery for guitar controllers



MUSIC CONTROLLER ACCESSORIES

- Add a heavy-duty bass pedal to your gaming drum set to replace your standard pedal
- A tripod microphone stand will make your song-based games more true to life
- Extra cymbals for your rock drum kit will give you more freedom to express musical ability



EXTERNAL MEMORY

- External hard drives, USB drives, or memory cards back up your in-progress games
- When additional memory is connected to live (online) games, you can save gaming content and downloads
- The more memory you have, the more games and downloads you'll be able to store



WIRELESS CONTROLLER

- Bluetooth technology lets you play while also having the freedom to move around
- Some controllers use traditional AAA batteries to sustain your playing time
- Find the best design for your grip: ergonomic or traditional



GAMING SERVICES

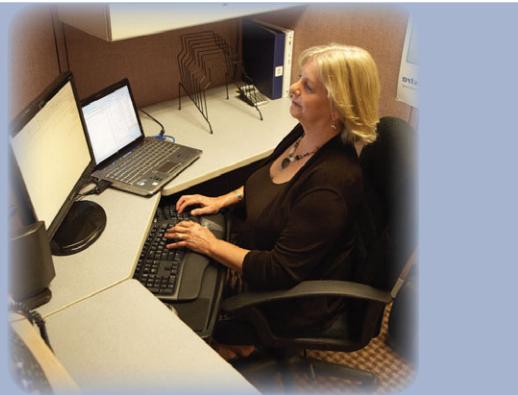
Your local CE retailer provides some helpful services, both in-home and in-store, to enhance your game console. Specifically, the professionals can set up online connections, install system updates, and transfer data to a game storage device.

- Configure online accounts
- Console system updates
- Stream media from a PC to a game console
- Connect a console to a home-theater system

BUILT FOR BUSINESS

IN THIS SECTION, YOU'LL FIND PRODUCTS AND SERVICES that are suitable for businesses of all sizes. From digital signage that can hold up to prolonged hours of use in a small mom and pop store to powerful servers that can support a corporation's network of hundreds of workers, these pages offer a wide range of solutions for professional needs. No matter your size of business, *First Glimpse*'s Built For Business section helps you discover the latest innovative technologies available in-store and online, so you can use them to grow success.

From The Smallest Offices . . .



. . . To The Largest Enterprises

Solutions That Cover . . .

Not everything a business needs can be found on a store shelf. Depending on the size and demands of your company, you may need to seek solutions through other avenues. Take, for example, Best Buy and its business support.

To help you match the technology and services that fit your company, no matter its size, industry, or obstacles, Best Buy offers consultations with its business experts in stores, online, on the phone, and at your location.

. . . The Full Business Scope

. . . discover the latest innovative technologies available in-store and online . . .



Why You Should Invest In Business-Grade Products

Buy For Your Business' Future

Sometimes the differences are subtle, but products intended for the typical consumer and those designed for business use are often not the same. In addition to slightly different feature sets than consumer-grade products, business products offer companies opportunities to save money, improve efficiency, and take advantage of deals that are unique to businesses.



A Smart Purchase

Do business-grade products cost more? Up front, they usually do. However, the benefits of springing for the right tool for the job pays dividends, financial and otherwise, down the line.

Business-grade products often have enhanced features and specifications, leading to better performance (which enhances employee productivity) and a greater length of time before a given piece of hardware needs to be replaced. For example, a laptop with a powerful processor and a sizable and fast hard drive may be expensive, but it will perform better than a smaller, underpowered notebook, and its top-of-the-line features mean that it won't become obsolete as quickly.

Support & Warranties

Many business-grade products are deployed in a workplace as part of a package. For example, if your office has five employees, you may be able to buy software with five licenses—a money-saver on its own—but that group package sometimes also comes with a support contract with the manufacturer as well as extended warranties.

Advanced Features For Business Use

Many products designed for businesses have specific features that are germane to business applications and aren't necessarily ideal or required for home use. For example, an all-in-one printer that has fax, copy, and scan capabilities is a must-have for a business, whereas most home users could do without some of these features.

Additionally, software is often designed with differing levels of need in mind. Many applications and productivity suites are available in "business" or "enterprise" versions, which offer features that cater to business needs but would be impractical for a general user.

BY SETH COLANER

FirstGlimpse



Products That Mean Business

Beyond Basic Tools For Your Office

If you're working from a home office or small office, take advantage of business products that can help you increase your business' productivity. Experts at your local CE retailer can offer advice about when business-grade products are suitable for your office rather than hardware and software designed for personal use.

Mobile Phones & Office

- Smartphones make it possible to conduct business when you're away from the office. Most new smartphones support multimedia messaging, international network connectivity, and document viewing and storage.
- Download apps for videoconferencing sessions, to-do lists, and inventory management.
- A mobile broadband USB adapter lets you connect your laptop to the cellular network, so you can access the Internet and keep working when you're on the go.
- Laptop accessories such as a portable mouse or an extra battery make updating sales sheets and filling out expense reports simple when you're out of the office. A laptop case keeps your business PC protected.

GPS & Car

- A car security system with keyless entry can protect your vehicle from theft during delivery trips.
- Business travel requires navigating plenty of unfamiliar roads while trying to get to meetings on time, so add a professional-grade GPS unit with features such as multideestination routing and traffic updates, to stay on track.
- A Bluetooth car kit lets you make phone calls while keeping your hands safely on the steering wheel.

TV & A/V

- Set up a flat-panel TV to play the company orientation DVD for newly hired employees.
- Display boardroom presentations for all to see by installing a large screen and professional-grade projector, with features such as built-in wireless networking and HD input. An audio system will help you get your message across.

Cameras & Camcorders

- A camcorder will let you record timely videos for blog updates or marketing materials.
- Using a D-SLR camera, you can take vivid photos of your products and post them on your business' Web site.



Office Solutions

Essential Tools For Business

When you're laying the foundation for your small business, look to your local CE retailer for office solutions.

Technology Essentials

- With a laptop recommended for small businesses, you can stay connected to the office even while you're on the road for a conference; you may even be able to log directly into your company's network if it has VPN (virtual private network) access.
- Software necessities such as an OS, office suite, or antivirus program keep your business moving.
- Create and communicate with a printer, scanner, or fax machine.
- Connect to clients and co-workers with networking equipment and high-speed Internet access.
- Back up and store critical information, such as invoices, project plans, or accounting information with external or network storage.
- Collaborate with your employees on a sales pitch by creating your own personal network with a home server and networking products.
- Save money on the most popular business software titles by taking advantage of volume licensing discounts, which let you activate the software on a certain number of computers for a reduced price.

Shared Workspace

- Prepare for calls from clients with a traditional desk phone or a VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phone, which uses an Internet connection to make voice calls.
- Conduct meetings with faraway clients by using a conferencing telephone.
- Work comfortably all day with quality office furniture such as an ergonomic chair that can help reduce back aches by promoting appropriate posture, or a large, spacious desk with room for your computer, printer, and other office necessities.
- Keep your business running smoothly by stocking up on common office supplies, such as printer paper and ink and toner cartridges, so you'll always have the resources to create invoices or marketing materials.
- Design a comfortable, practical break room that offers the amenities of home with appliances such as a fridge, microwave, and coffee maker.

BY KRIS GLASER BRAMBILA



A Versatile New Hire

Canon's PIXMA MX882 All-In-One Inkjet

The PIXMA MX882 Wireless Inkjet Office All-In-One Printer from Canon (\$199.99; www.usa.canon.com) has an impressive résumé. It can bring smart printing, copying, scanning, and faxing features to your workplace.

Canon PIXMA MX882
\$199.99
www.usa.canon.com



Usability

Time is money. The MX882's Dual Function Panel features function keys that double as a fax number keypad. This, along with speed-dial support for up to 100 numbers, can make your fax jobs fly. Factor in walk-up printing for compatible mobile devices, such as camera phones and tablets, and it's clear that this printer was designed to accelerate your office's real-world workflow.

Auto-Duplex Document Feeder

Your business day doesn't give you time to babysit a complex fax, scan, or copy job. Hand those double-sided pages off to your new assistant. The MX882 can digest up to 35 sheets at a time, reading both sides of each page.

Essential Specs

- 35-sheet automatic duplexing document feeder
- Pigment-based black ink adds richness to text, graphics, and photos
- Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n and Ethernet networking support
- Super G3 color fax with 250-page reception buffer
- 9,600 x 2,400dpi printing with 1-picroliter droplet size
- Full HD Movie Print
- 2,400 x 4,800dpi optical scanning
- 3-inch LCD
- Optional Bluetooth
- 150-sheet input feeder and 150-sheet cassette

Photos

Business printing isn't only about pricing sheets and invoices. Depending on the day, there may be marketing materials, presentation handouts, and even informal brochures on deck.

The MX882's high resolution (9,600dpi) and Auto Photo Fix II feature can make your photo prints look their best. The system can produce a borderless 4x6 print in about 20 seconds. It accepts virtually any type of memory card, and it can even print still images directly from HD video footage you've shot with a compatible Canon EOS or PowerShot digital camera.

Using Canon's ChromaLife ink, prints created by the MX882 are durable enough to last up to 300 years under certain conditions. Talk about leaving a corporate legacy.

HDTVs For Business

LG's Range Of Display Solutions

Whether you need one or two consumer TVs for your restaurant or small business or a larger order of professional-grade models for a hotel, LG has you covered. LG also offers service, support, and financing to meet your specific needs. Here, we'll examine the variety of markets that LG has television solutions for and the display features your workplace can benefit from.



Small Businesses

Professional

- LG provides you with the integrated hardware, software, and tools you need to creatively enhance your business.
- LG SuperSign programs simplify digital signage to help you communicate with your audience.
- SuperSign Premier members have direct access to Certified Content Providers and custom content creation services to quickly provide unique signage.
- With fresh promotional and syndicated content—including the latest news—you can capture customers' interest.

Consumer

- LG's line of consumer HDTVs can also do the job if you need only a few TVs. For example, the LV5500 Series LED HDTVs support smart TV, which provides a wealth of Internet-based content.



Healthcare

Professional

- LG has been working with the healthcare industry for more than three decades, and it features a Healthcare division to take care of your display needs.
- A team of healthcare industry experts will work to tailor an HDTV solution to the needs of your facility.
- In-room patient HDTVs can provide entertainment via shows, movies, games, and Web content that's easy to read. For example, LG's HealthView TVs feature large on-screen channel banners and volume displays.
- Clear Voice Technology automatically bumps up the sounds of human voices to keep dialogue audible above background noise.



Niche Markets

Professional

- High-impact signage is ideal for commercial solutions within retail, education, transportation, food service, and other venues. To help you tailor the displays to your specific needs, LG offers expert vertical market managers and application engineers that can guide you through the development of a signage system, which will give you more immediate returns on the investment.
- By taking control of your signage, you can build your brand image, effectively communicate advertising, and enhance customer experience.
- Professional-grade 3D HDTVs are available for those that want to give guests the luxury experience. LG's Pro:Centric applications provide an interactive experience for guests, including the ability to review amenities and local attractions.

Consumer

- Consumer models are often more stylish and sleek than commercial designs, so you may want to consider them if you only need a couple of displays.

Hospitality

Professional

- If you're looking to add refinement to your lobby or entryway, LG includes digital signage that can work with multiple displays and multiple playlists and provide content from several sources.
- The range of options includes professional-quality LCD and plasma displays, touchscreen displays, mounts, and digital media players.
- You can add LG's Auto Sensing Remote Jack Pack to give users access to multiple audio and video inputs to connect the TV to portable devices.
- Multimedia LED projectors are also available for those that want to use a surface, such as a wall, ceiling, or countertop to deliver their message.

Consumer

- A number of LG's consumer HDTVs can work with the Remote Jack Pack to provide flexibility with inputs and outputs.

Financing Options

To ensure your company quickly gets up and running with the technology it needs, many CE retailers offer a variety of payment options for business products and services.

- Net 30 accounts
- Leasing options
- Payments accepted via account wire transfers, business credit cards, checks, or electronic checks



ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

Business Software

Q What are some examples of business software?

A Basically, any software that is essential to conducting business, such as operating systems, office suites, antivirus, tax software, backup and recovery programs, security software, business planning suites, and financial applications.

Q What's different about business-centric applications compared to home user-centric applications?

A Business-centric applications tend to offer advanced features, such as tax software that assists with self-employed filing, security software that allows remote connections, and backup software that supports multiple systems.

Q Do I have to purchase a separate program for each computer in my business?

A Many business programs offer licenses that can be used on more than one computer.

Q What features should I look for in an operating system for a business PC?

A Business features include the ability to run software designed for older OSes, simplified networking for multiple PCs, and automatic backup to a network. Advanced

business features include file encryption and support for multiple languages.

Q What business-specific applications can be found in office suites?

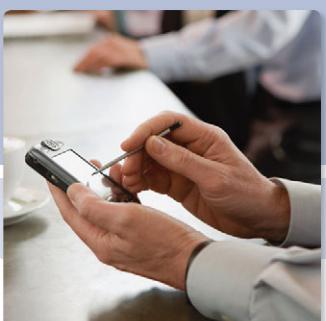
A Most versions of office suites include word, spreadsheet, slideshow, and collaboration utilities, but business-centric versions often include full-featured email, publishing, and database applications.

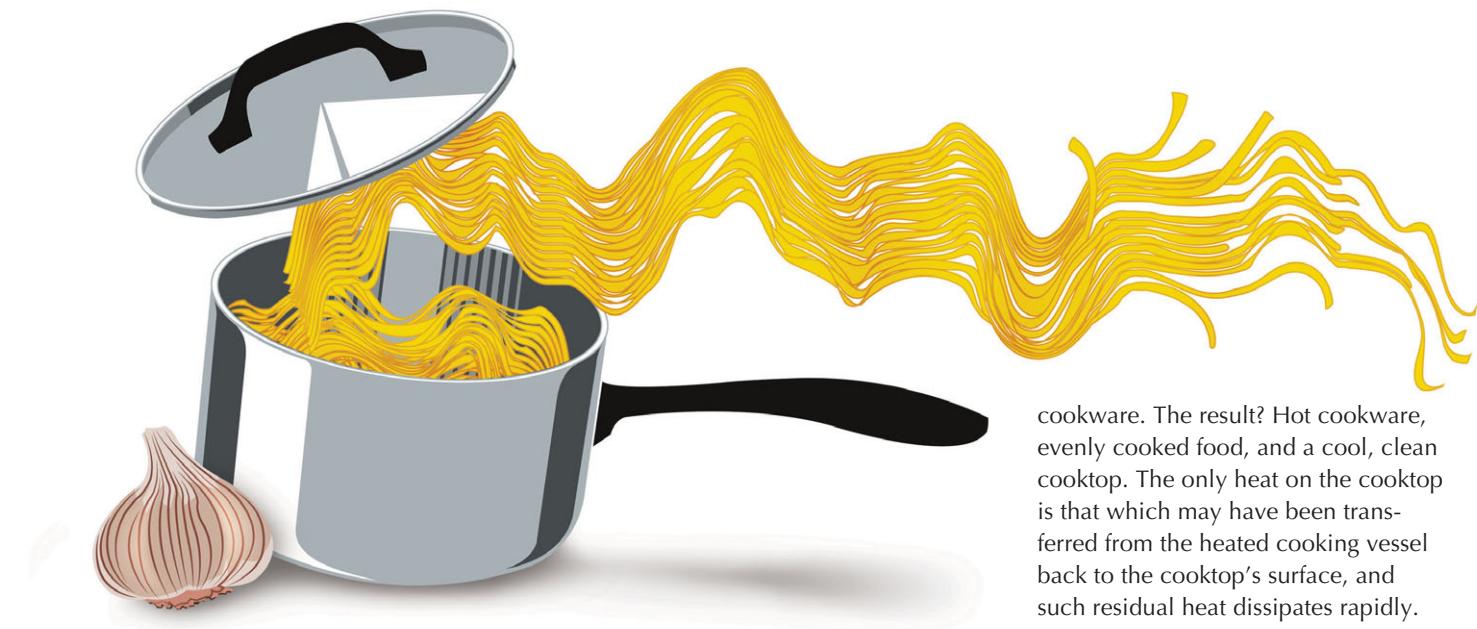
Q Is technical support an important consideration?

A Technical support is an important consideration whether or not your business has in-house IT staff. Often, business-centric versions of software offer longer technical support terms and occasionally include access to a 24/7 support hotline.

Q Can I use software not designed for commercial use in my business?

A You must consult the EULA (End User License Agreement) of the software to determine if commercial use is acceptable. Most academic versions of software are restricted to noncommercial use, and commercial users may be penalized for using noncommercial software in a commercial enterprise.





Induction Cooktops

YOU'VE SEEN INDUCTION COOKTOPS: They're those sleek, space-age smooth, glass-like surfaces upon which—seemingly by magic—one can cook food using no visible flame on what apparently remains a perfectly cool cooktop. Easy to clean and available in different finishes and colors, they fit in perfectly with a variety of decors. At first glance they look like other examples of what we've come to call "smoothtop" gas or electric cooking surfaces, but the similarity ends there. Those other smoothtops offer sleek and easy-to-clean surfaces with much to recommend them, but induction cooktops are an entirely different way of cooking, and they use a "resistive heating" technology with which you may be unfamiliar. (It's not quite correct to say that this is a "new" way of cooking: Some experimenters were showcasing induction-based cooktops as far back as the 1950s, while a few commercial

versions were actually released in the 1970s. One early demo showed a pot of water being heated with a sheet of newspaper placed between the pot and the cooktop, while a later one wowed viewers by heating a pot of water through a block of ice.)

What's Induction Cooking?

In an induction cooktop, the heat is created not on the rangetop, as we've come to expect with gas and electric ranges, including "smoothtop" ranges. Instead, with an induction cooktop, the heat is generated in the cooking vessel—and *only* in the cooking vessel—by utilizing the resistance to an electric current flowing through a coil beneath the cooktop. Simply put, induction cooking results from resistive heating of the cookware, rather than by creating heat on the stove top and then *transferring* that heat to the

cookware. The result? Hot cookware, evenly cooked food, and a cool, clean cooktop. The only heat on the cooktop is that which may have been transferred from the heated cooking vessel back to the cooktop's surface, and such residual heat dissipates rapidly.

Inductive Cooking Requirements

Induction cooking requires special cookware—or at least standard cookware that happens to have a base with a high iron content. Aluminum and glass cooking vessels, for example, simply won't heat up, because the bottom of the pot, pan, or bowl must contain ferrous metal, the type to which a magnet will stick. (In fact, that's the typical test: If a magnet will stick firmly to the bottom of a pot, pan, or other vessel, it can be used on an induction cooktop.) Generally speaking, your favorite cast-iron skillet will work just fine, as will most cast-iron cookware that's been coated with ceramics or porcelain. As with all smoothtops, heating will occur more quickly and evenly if the cookware being used has a perfectly flat bottom.

Advantages Of Inductive Cooking

Overall, an induction cooktop is much more efficient than other forms of cooking, because induction cooktops heat only the cookware, instead of heating something else and then attempting to *transfer* that heat to the

cookware. Because of that efficiency, the stovetop itself remains cool to the touch while the pot or pan on the stovetop heats up. This means less heat in the kitchen overall, so the process is safer and results in a cool, safe, easy-to-clean cooktop.

The heat generated by induction can be precisely (and even automatically) regulated and responds to adjustment

every bit as quickly as that of a gas cooktop.

Faster, Safer Cooking

That overall efficiency also results in something else: speed. You can assume that, all else being equal, a pot of water being heated on an induction cooktop will boil in about half the time as on a standard gas or electric cooktop. Again, this is because no heat is lost

during transference from cooktop to cookware; instead, the cookware is heated directly.

Inductive cooking is clean, safe, and fast, and it keeps your home cooler. The fact that it heats only ferro-magnetic surfaces means fewer burned fingers, fewer burned-in stains, and faster meals.

BY ROD SCHER



Samsung FTQ307 Induction Range
\$1,999.99 | www.samsung.com

Samsung's FTQ307 Induction Range

A 30-inch range/cooktop combo in stainless steel, the Samsung FTQ307 (\$1,999.99; www.samsung.com) includes a self-cleaning, freestanding electric convection range with a 5.9 cubic feet oven capacity and two oven racks with seven rack positions. A warming drawer offers three separate temperature settings, so you can keep side dishes at exactly the preferred

temperature. The oven uses three fans to circulate air in a uniform pattern and can safely maintain cooking temperatures for extended periods of time to comply with kosher cooking practices.

The cooktop's four elements provide between 7,800W and 16,500W of power to meet exacting cooking requirements. Element-on and hot-surface indicator lights specify which

burners are on and which burners are too hot to touch, regardless of whether they're currently on or off. The ceramic surface will not crack and is easy to wipe clean.

At 47 1/16 x 29 29/32 x 25 31/32 inches (HxWxD), the freestanding Model FTQ307 weighs in at 211.6 pounds. A power cord is not included so that when you purchase your cooktop range, you can select the

amperage and length of cord that best fits your needs. Other accessories you might consider include cookware designed specifically for induction cooking.

The Samsung FTQ307 boils water faster than gas cooktops and twice as fast as radiant electric cooktops. It gives you all the control of gas cooking, while allowing you, your kitchen, and the cooktop to stay cool. ●

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